

Stock slide continues at AFM

AMMAN (R) — Share prices in Amman continued to fall on Tuesday, troubled by apparent government indifference to a slide triggered by the proposal of a capital gains tax. The general price index of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) closed at 143.39 points, down 0.69 per cent in the half-day Tuesday trading session from 144.39 on Monday. Brokers said traders were concerned by remarks this week by prime minister Abdul Salam Majali when he replied to questions about the slide triggered by the proposed tax by saying that someone's loss is another one's gain. "The investors can't understand what is the position of the government," said one broker. "Are they trying to push the market down?" Traders fear Dr. Majali's comments mean the government will press on with a draft law to tax capital gains on shares held by financial institutions at rates ranging from 35 to 40 per cent. Trading was light, with 360 contracts executed for 142,007 shares. The value of shares traded in the single session was JD 414,823, down sharply from JD 1,369,603.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية - الراي

Nabulsi: Reserves situation strong

AMMAN (Petra) — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Al Nabulsi said Tuesday the financial and monetary situation in Jordan was stronger than any time in the past. In a lecture he delivered at Amman Rotary Club, Dr. Nabulsi said Jordan had come out triumphant in the battle of challenges which it had been facing since the beginning of this year when its foreign currency reserves dropped. Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ regained over the past two months \$150 million of its foreign currency reserve. Foreign currency is flowing to the CBJ and all the lost reserves would be recovered by the end of September, Dr. Nabulsi said. "The challenges facing us were dealing with political issues. However, we were able to overcome these challenges," Dr. Nabulsi stressed that the CBJ will not be taken by surprise. He pointed out that Jordan has more than \$1.4 billion worth of gold and foreign currency reserves.

Volume 18 Number 5714

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1994, RABI' ALTHANI 8, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Jordan, Israel end talks describing results as positive

Combined agency dispatches

JORDAN AND ISRAEL on Tuesday ended two days of negotiations on a multitude of bilateral issues with both sides describing the outcome of the talks as positive.

Fayez Tarawneh, Jordan's chief delegate, told reporters in Tiberias in northern Israel where the talks were held that the two sides "discussed thoroughly all subjects on the agendas of the (Jordanian-Israeli) bilateral committee and the (Jordanian-American-Israeli) trilateral committee meetings."

"Discussions also covered major issues such as water, boundaries and territories," Dr. Tarawneh said. "Some gaps were bridged in some areas."

Elyakim Rabinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, also described the talks as serious and positive and said both parties had "genuine desire to make progress on the various issues under discussion."

The negotiators have agreed to open a second border crossing between the two countries.

Meeting at a conference centre on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, negotiators agreed that the new crossing would be at the Sheikh Hussein Bridge, 24 kilometres south of the sea, and would open by the end of October. Yossi Gal, spokesman for the Israelis, said the third

crossing will be subjected to the same restrictions as the King Hussein Bridge and the recently opened crossing near the resorts of Eilat and Aqaba. Bulldozers have started working on the road.

Jordan started letting Israelis who had citizenship from a third country into Jordan after declaring an end to the state of war with the Jewish state in July.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is also interior minister, signed an order making it legal for Israelis holding a foreign passport to visit Jordan, Israel Radio said. The Jerusalem Post said Jordan agreed to this move.

Mr. Rabinstein said on Israel radio that they raised the possibility of Palestinians joining what would become trilateral talks on economic matters.

"We will continue discussing this as a potentially important matter. It is not planned for this session and if it does happen it won't be before October," Mr. Rabinstein said.

An agreement on aviation rights was delayed because of disagreements over the altitude Jordanian planes could overfly Israel, an Israeli delegate said.

"The variety of (aviation) interests will have to be reconciled," said Eitan Bentur, the director-general of Israel's foreign ministry. Jordanian spokesman Marwan Muasher said Jordan's

position on borders with Israel is based on clear principles and firm determination to regain full sovereignty on all Jordanian lands.

Dr. Muasher said that a technical committee continued its examination of the question of borders but had not finished its work.

A joint committee on the development of the Jordan Rift Valley is due to meet with the American side soon to put the finishing touches to a joint working paper and it is hoped that the final version of the plan would be finalised by the end of September, he said.

The most important projects to be implemented in the Jordan Valley, Dr. Muasher said, include a Red-Dead Sea canal, which is a huge project requiring international funding since the two sides cannot come up with the required funds, estimated at \$1.5 billion to \$3 billion.

"Should this project be implemented the Dead Sea would be restored to its natural position that existed at the start of the present century, and the project would generate vast amounts of energy," he said.

As to commercial exchanges, the two sides agreed on allowing Jordan to export goods to the West Bank, something which Israel had banned to date, the spokesman noted.

However, he added, the

implementation of the agreement depends on an agreement with the Palestinian side.

Agreement was reached with the Israeli side that Israel should offer facilities for Palestinian merchants wishing to import goods from Jordan, Dr. Muasher said.

On the demarcation of borders, he said that the joint borders committee has been at work in the past weeks and agreed on common points for unifying the maps but not points for demarcation of borders.

"This is because the two sides have their own maps, and we should have common terms of reference for drawing up unified maps," he added.

Referring to civil aviation, he said there was discussion on "experimental corridors" but the two sides have not yet come to an agreement and discussion is continuing on this matter.

The development of the Jordan Valley is to take place in the light of studies of investment plans, he said, noting that each side has its own concepts and ideas. Therefore plans have to be merged into integrated plans acquiring the approval of the two sides.

He said the two sides agreed to hold the next meeting on Sept. 28 and 29 at the Dead Sea Hotel on the Jordanian side.

(Continued on page 12)



Demonstrators demanding arms and consumption control rather than population control stage a protest in Cairo (AFP)

Cairo conference adopts plan on population control

CAIRO (Agencies) — The U.N. population conference on Tuesday approved a 20-year plan aimed at curbing humanity's burgeoning numbers and stimulating economic development. Quibbling over language on sex went up to the last minute.

The programme of action broadens the approach to population control by putting it for the first time in the context of economic development, environmental protection and — especially — empowerment of women.

Egyptian Population Minister Maher Mahran declared the conference closed at 6.15 p.m. (1515 GMT), saying the conference programme of action would "make a major difference in the quality of life of the world community living today and for the happiness of future generations."

Delegates from some 180 countries adopted the programme by consensus, but more than 20 said in the final day's speeches that they had objections over abortion and

reproductive health provisions.

When the final gavel came down, the delegates applauded the end to nine days of work and hard debate.

Timothy Wirth, a U.S. State-Department under-secretary and head of the U.S. delegation, praised "the spirit of Cairo" and added: "In time, all nations will come to understand the profound change... of the programme we approved today."

The Vatican, which led the fight to water down wording on sexual issues, announced it was joining the consensus on certain parts of the document, a softening of its rejection of U.N. population documents in 1974 and 1984. But the Vatican delegate, Archbishop Renato Martino, said the Holy See could not support any sections "recognising abortion as a dimension of population policy and primary health care." He also rejected wording the Vatican reads as approving extramarital sex.

Muslim and Roman Catholic nations expressing objec-

tions in Tuesday's session were not rejecting the report, but only listing "reservations" under U.N. rules. It was not immediately clear how many of the reservations would become footnotes to the document.

In announcing the Vatican's stand, Archbishop Martino said the Holy See "wishes in some way to join, even if in an incomplete or partial way, the consensus on the report."

He said the Vatican would support sections on the family, sustainable development, the empowerment of women and migration.

Fuzzing language to accommodate the Vatican and Muslim nations had brought complaints from some Western delegations that wanted stronger stands on sexual rights.

Muslim countries, including the host nation Egypt, criticised use of the word "individuals" in a section on sexual activity. Muslims have argued this suggests approval for extramarital relations (see page 12).

The leader of the Iranian delegation, Mohammad Ali Taskhiri, argued that "this document, with all the positive aspects it contains, does not take into consideration the role of religious beliefs and systems."

El Salvador, Malta and Colombia expressed reservations about a long debated chapter on abortion, aimed at ensuring the procedure was carried out safely. They were joined by several Muslim countries.

The conference's plan will not be binding on the nations that agree to it. But delegates say it carries a "moral weight" and gives new ammunition to politicians and private groups to lobby for change.

Nafis Sadik, secretary-general of the conference, told reporters she was satisfied with the debate.

"All the revisions, they really don't change the sense of any of it, and I believe that the spirit for implementing it is very much there," she told a press conference.

Peres, Arafat vow to break deadlock

OSLO (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat vowed on Tuesday to try to break a deadlock over Jerusalem which could unlock aid for Palestinian self-rule projects.

Both leaders arrived in Oslo to have talks with each other, international donors and Norwegian mediators exactly one year after an Israel-PLO peace accord was signed in Washington.

Originally invited to attend a concert marking the first anniversary of the historic pact, their visit took on a sense of urgency after the collapse of talks last Friday of an international meeting in Paris on Palestinian development projects and financial issues.

Disagreement between the PLO and Israel over East Jerusalem meant the meeting was adjourned without any discussion of development projects and financial issues. "Where there is a will there is a way," Mr. Arafat told reporters at Oslo airport.

saying he expected a great deal from his Oslo meetings.

The World Bank called off the Paris meeting, designed to pay out some of the aid pledged to Palestinians to cover the costs of administering self-rule territories, after Israel and the PLO clashed over Jerusalem.

Israel, which regards Jerusalem as its "indivisible and eternal capital," insisted on the removal of projects in East Jerusalem from the Palestinian 1995 budget.

The Palestinians refused, saying they did not want to accept a precedent that donors could not fund projects in East Jerusalem, which they view as the future capital of a Palestinian state.

Mr. Peres told a news conference he was intent on solving the problem, indicating the main issue was how money should be channelled to East Jerusalem. "We shall look for a solution and not extend a quarrel," he said.

Asked if the controversial funding could be kept in the

Rabin detects 'shift' in Syria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin says he has detected a shift in Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's stance in favour of peace.

Mr. Rabin made the comments in a televised link up with U.S. President Bill Clinton late Monday.

Referring to a speech by the Syrian leader on Saturday, Mr. Rabin said: "In the past we used always not to refer to what the Arab leaders, ministers are speaking abroad, but what they did say in Arabic to their own people."

"And President Assad spoke about a strategy of peace, and accepting the objective conditions of peace, he did not speak of normalisation, but it is a slight change in their public diplomacy."

Mr. Assad told parliament that Syria was "aware of the objective requirements of peace and is ready to conform to the requirements on which an accord will be based."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres hailed the comments as a "declaration of peace" and called for a new approach to find an accord with Syria. Meanwhile, Mr. Clinton called on Arab countries to drop their ban on trade with Israel.

"We have the right to expect that the participants in the peace process will respect their commitments," he said. "We also hope that all those in the region who have been urging us to continue to play an energetic role will do their part too, in particular in taking steps now to dismantle the Arab boycott of Israel."

But Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez, in an interview published in Beirut on Tuesday, urged Arab oil-producing states to keep up the boycott saying it was a key negotiating card in Arab hands.

"(We) should not give in to international pressure which is aimed at removing from Arab hands this key card," he said.

In a taped address to Jewish organisations meeting in Chicago at the weekend, Mr. Clinton said that the international community "must do all it can to ensure that Arabs and Israelis realise the full benefits of peace."

"We have the right to expect that the participants in the peace process live up to their commitments. And we also hope that all those in the region who have been urging us to continue to play an energetic role will do their part, too," he said.

"In particular, by taking steps now to dismantle the Arab boycott of Israel."

Mr. Clinton praised Arab and Israeli leaders for their historic moves towards peace, singling out King Hassan II of Morocco who last week began the process of establishing diplomatic relations with Israel.

Meanwhile, a State Department spokesman said that Secretary of State Warren Christopher would travel to the Middle East in October to push forward talks between Syria and Israel.

Spokesman Michael McCurry told a briefing for journalists that Mr. Christopher "would like to tour the region soon," adding: "I suspect soon might mean October."

The spokesman voiced cautious optimism over Syria. "Assad reaffirmed his willingness to make progress but a lot of work remains to be done," Mr. McCurry said. Mr. Christopher was scheduled to visit the Middle East this month but the spokesman said that the trip was unlikely "given the Jewish holidays and the schedule that he has at the U.N. General Assembly."

The United States welcomes "Syria's continued commitment to the peace process," the spokesman said, noting that President Assad's speech to parliament "reaffirmed that Syria has made the strategic choice for peace with Israel they have discussed on prior occasions."

'Settlers planned attack on Palestinian HQ'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Jewish settlers were planning an attack on the East Jerusalem headquarters of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

Eight suspects were arrested in the last week as alleged members of an extreme right-wing Jewish underground network which murdered several Palestinians. Several men were caught outside the Orient House headquarters with guns and grenades in their car just minutes before an assault, the Yediot Aharonot reported.

Palestinian security men, who guard the building, were among the targets of the settlers, the daily said, quoting sources in the Israeli security services. Faisal Hussein, the West Bank leader of Fateh, works from Orient House, which is owned by his family. A majority of the suspects, including two army officers, were from the hardline settlement of Kiryat Arba, home of the Hebron mosque killer Baruch Goldstein. The settlers are also suspected of murdering five Palestinians in the last year.

Bouez: Too early for direct peace talks

BEIRUT (AP) — Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said Tuesday it was currently "unjustifiable" to engage in high-level, direct negotiations with Israel.

Low-level talks have been stalled since February and the United States has been acting as intermediary to help restart the negotiations.

Mr. Bouez, in a news conference before heading to Egypt for a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers due to begin Wednesday, also argued that the Arab economic boycott of the Jewish state be maintained.

Lifting the boycott, in force since Israel was created in 1948, would strip the Arabs of a bargaining chip in the peace process, Mr. Bouez said.

"We believe this is a kind of surrender by the Arab side that falls outside the framework of serious negotiations," Mr. Bouez said. In a related development, President Elias Hrawi received a message from the Clinton administration Tuesday, state-run Beirut radio said.

The message, whose contents were not divulged, was delivered by the U.S. charge d'affaires in Beirut, Vincent Battle.

Arab-Israeli negotiations have been conducted in recent months through U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher or his emissaries

in shuttle missions between Israel and Syria.

In his news conference, Mr. Bouez spoke of an "American dynamism in the negotiations" and of further progress in the talks, begun three years ago at a Middle East peace conference in Madrid, Spain.

But the foreign minister said more discussions were needed before Lebanon moves to direct, high-level negotiations with Israel, as the Palestinians and Jordan have done.

"We believe that any high-level direct negotiations are unjustifiable as long as the principles and foundations of the peace process are subject to interpretation by Israel," he said.

Talk of upgrading the negotiations — to the foreign ministers' level, according to media reports — could only be raised "when there is at least a clear Israeli commitment" to a complete withdrawal from occupied Arab lands, Mr. Bouez said.

Mr. Bouez said Lebanon has rejected several Israeli withdrawal offers because they lacked a clear commitment to a complete pullout according to a fixed timetable that would enable the Lebanese government to spread its authority over the evacuated areas.

Israel has occupied a (1,100-square-kilometre) border strip in south Leba-

non since 1985 as a "security zone" to guard against cross-border guerrilla attacks. The area is patrolled by 1,200 Israeli troops and 2,500 militiamen of the surrogate South Lebanon Army.

Israel has offered a conditional pullback from the area and demanded that the Lebanese government curb on what is now the last active Arab-Israeli war front.

The Beirut government, which supports guerrillas seeking to dislodge the Israelis and their local allies from the south, has said it will not curb the attacks before a full withdrawal.

Beilin hopeful

In Assisi, Italy, an Israeli official said Monday he was hopeful of a breakthrough with Syria in the coming months.

"They (relations) are the closest as they have ever been because we have a common denominator: Israel is ready to withdraw (from the Golan Heights)... and Syria is ready to make peace," Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told a news conference.

Mr. Beilin spoke at a conference sponsored by the community of San Egidio, a Rome-based group promoting dialogue and cooperation among faiths.

Hardliners strike to oppose self-rule

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Hardline Palestinians closed down businesses in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah with a strike on Tuesday's first anniversary of the Palestinian self-rule accord.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which opposes the autonomy agreement and is pursuing the armed struggle against Israel, called the stoppage.

Shops and businesses shut but schools remained open and local buses ran in the town of about 50,000 inhabitants.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed the declaration of principles for autonomy in Washington on Sept. 13, 1993.

Palestinian refugees and hardliners in Lebanon also marked the first anniversary of the historic peace accord with Israel with protests and angry denunciations.

In Syria, three Palestinian factions issued statements attacking the agreement that led to this year's implementation of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said the accord formed a "dark page" in the history of the Palestinian national struggle.

His sentiments were echoed in separate statements issued by Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-

(Continued on page 12)

Middle East peace still fragile one year on

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel is scrambling to train diplomats to fill a flood of new embassies. Its economic planners are devising grandiose schemes to harness the resources of the Middle East.

Its armed forces are taking delivery of the most sophisticated American weaponry and U.S.-backed loans are helping to finance the biggest economic overhaul in the Jewish state's near half century of existence.

One year after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat shook hands at the White House, Israel is consolidating its political and economic hold in the Middle East and presenting an international image tarnished by its occupation of Arab land.

Palestinians, meanwhile, are still struggling to build the institutions and the money to run the limited self-rule Israel granted them in the declaration of principles, a loose framework of accord negotiated in secret in Oslo and sealed in Washington on Sept. 13 last year.

The first stages of the accord have been achieved,



Syrian author Farouk Manjoma (right) is greeted by Israeli President Ezer Weizman at a festival of Arab and Israeli poets held in occupied Jerusalem on Monday as a "salute to peace" (AFP photo)

although months behind schedule. Israel has pulled its army out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and Mr. Arafat has returned.

The world would like to think the Palestinian problem is solved and peace is coming to the Middle East. Israel, looking in the new warmth of international acceptance, is keen to encourage this belief. Arab states are weary of the Palestinian issue and

want to exploit the new economic and political opportunities of the post-communist Middle East, Israelis argue.

Once Syria follows Egypt, Jordan and the PLO in making a deal with its Jewish neighbour, up to 20 Arab and Muslim countries will rush to establish ties with Israel, they say.

The Israeli foreign ministry is abuzz with excitement at the possibility and sure that

the deal with the PLO will work.

"Oslo will prevail in spite of all the difficulties," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told an upbeat conference of senior officials marking the accord's first anniversary.

The mood in the Palestinian camp is decidedly darker.

"The Oslo agreement is about principles only," said Khalil Shqabi, a political sci-

entist at Nablus University.

"Agreement on implementing those principles is proving far more difficult."

The two sides are locked in dispute over how to proceed to the next phase of the accord, extending Palestinian rule to the rest of the West Bank where tens of thousands of Jewish settlers are dotted among the Arab population.

A row over funding Palestinian projects in Jerusalem — whose status is not open for negotiation for at least another two years — is also holding up vital international aid to Gaza and Jericho.

The PLO, fearing an erosion of popular support for the accord, wants to speed up its implementation. Israel will not agree to this until the PLO proves it can guarantee security.

In an attempt to break out of this impasse Mr. Arafat is calling for Palestinian elections, which the Oslo accord says can only be held once Israel has pulled its troops from West Bank towns.

But Israel is dragging its feet on elections pending proof that Mr. Arafat can deliver on security.

Israeli officials agree that security guarantees are the key to redeployment in the West Bank, particularly in a

town like Hebron where settlers live in the middle of the Arab population.

Privately PLO officials resent what they see as Israel's veto over the progress of the accord but they acknowledge that they have little choice but to stick with the agreement.

Palestinian opposition groups seize on this as proof that the Palestinians came off the poorer in the deal with Israel.

"Objectively Israel got most of what it wanted," Mr. Shqabi said. "It got out of the jungle of Gaza, won international support and is now opening up to the world," he said.

Palestinians got the first building blocks of a new nation but the scales were still tipped in Israel's favour.

Israel, eager to continue making inroads to the Arab World, wants to portray Oslo as a "win-win" bargain.

"All these achievements would have been impossible if this had been a one-sided deal," said Uri Savir, director-general of the Israeli foreign ministry.

"It is not for me to give the Palestinian balance sheet, except that the deal that was signed was one that gave benefits to both sides which is the premise for any success," he said.

Gore announces U.S. business partnerships in West Bank, Gaza

WASHINGTON (USIA) —

"The hope and promise created last year (by the signing of the declaration of principles by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat) is being actively translated into real economic progress and development," said Vice President Al Gore, as he announced the completion of an agreement for business partnerships between Americans and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Gore said this agreement "establishes a framework that allows the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) to begin offering loans, loan guarantees and political risk insurance to American companies with ventures in the West Bank and Gaza." He credited Ruth Harkin, president of OPIC, for getting the agreement signed.

Recognising that private sector initiatives in the West Bank and Gaza would be critical to the peace process, Arab and Jewish American business leaders who witnessed the historic signing, joined together in builders for peace and in other ways to invest and build working relationships and joint ventures in the region.

Mr. Gore said the United States government will provide support to five projects announced by OPIC. Builders for Peace and other investors which will result in 1,800 temporary or permanent jobs and an initial investment of approximately \$87 million in the West Bank and Gaza.

The United States has committed \$500 million to Palestinian development over five years to bolster political support for the peace deal.

The projects include a factory to bottle mineral water, another factory making furniture, three luxury hotels and a plant to produce building materials.

OPIC will offer loans, loan guarantees and insurance to American companies involved in the projects.

Mr. Gore said Monday: "We can never lose sight of our common objective — a comprehensive peace in which all the peoples of the Middle East can live securely and with dignity."

"Let me here acknowledge Builders for Peace — including my good friends Jim Zogby and Mel Levine. I have said that in the past Jim and Mel rarely agreed on anything. But this administration takes this as our premise: that developing the Palestinian private sector is the fastest way to create good jobs and opportunities. And private sector growth promotes a stable civil society — which in turn, provides the best way to ensuring regional cooperation."

"On this Jim Zogby and Mel Levine agree."

"Not only do they agree, but they — and the other members of Builders for Peace — have worked tirelessly to make it happen."

"When I was in South Africa for Nelson Mandela's inauguration, Chairman Arafat approached me and thanked the United States for helping to create builders. We've all seen the public endorsements, but this one was special. It shows that your work, all of your work — building and other private sector investors, and U.S. government agencies — is deeply appreciated and is making a profound difference."

Foreigners returning to Lebanon but no Americans

By Samir F. Ghattas
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Its name long synonymous with terror, Lebanon is luring foreigners again.

Tourists, reassured by improved security, are back on the beaches and at ancient ruins, and business people are flocking to cash in on the post-war rebuilding blitz.

Belgian waitresses are training at a posh Beirut hotel, Italian technicians are updating the antiquated telephone system, British engineers are working on construction projects, and British, French and Arab pop stars are lining up to perform.

Embassies, aid groups, foreign airlines and companies are back or preparing to return to Beirut, a playground for wealthy Europeans and Arabs before the 1975-90 civil war turned it into a haven for kidnappers and bombers.

European companies are profiting from the huge reconstruction effort, financed

through the sale of shares in a private company and tens of millions of dollars donated by Gulf countries.

Some \$1.8 billion alone is being spent to raze and rebuild Beirut's devastated commercial centre. The restoration of phone, sewage, electricity and water systems will cost hundreds of millions.

American businesses are losing out. Washington has banned Americans from using U.S. passports to travel to Lebanon since 1987 and few companies have tried to get around the restrictions.

There are no exact figures on how many foreigners have returned, but Labour Ministry figures show 615 Westerners were issued work permits in 1993. More than 200 were from France, the former colonial power in Lebanon. Only 24 were Americans.

While Lebanon has not returned to the pre-war days when 500,000 or so foreigners visited each year, more and more Westerners are seen on the streets, in restaurants, at

nightclubs and at tourist sites.

"At the first moments there was a flutter of fear, because Beirut doesn't have a good reputation," said Zochi Al Mamo, a 42-year-old Italian engineer.

"But that passed quickly," said Mr. Mamo, who arrived three months ago to work for Siemens, the German electronics company that is rebuilding Beirut's telephone network.

Brian Whitbread, 41, a British construction engineer, was among the first Westerners to return, in 1991.

"It's getting better and better all the time," he said. "There are police around. I don't feel threatened at all."

Three years ago, the government dismantled most of the militias who had turned Lebanon into a killing ground.

One militia, however, still has its weapons — the fiercely fundamentalist Islamic warriors of Hizbollah, who are supported by Iran.

Hizbollah's bedrock of support is Lebanon's politically and economically deprived Shiite Muslim sect. They are the people who spawned most of the groups that kidnapped nearly 100 Westerners during the civil war.

The Americans paid dearly in Beirut and are taking no chances.

Suicide car-bomb attacks on two U.S. embassy buildings and a U.S. Marine Corps base in 1983-84 killed 260 Americans. Seventeen Americans were kidnapped between 1983 and 1987, three died in captivity. The last American hostage — former Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson — was released in 1991.

The State Department says Lebanon remains a dangerous place and on Aug. 31 renewed its travel ban.

Despite the restrictions, about 40,000 Americans visited Lebanon last year, according to Lebanese-American groups. Most were of Lebanese descent.

While corporate America respects the travel ban, smaller companies are ignoring it.

Karen, an American whose grandfather was born in Lebanon, came to Beirut this summer to market her company's luxury line of home furnishings.

"You can see a lot of improvements since I visited last year in terms of roads, repairs and construction," she said.

She asked that her last name and her company's name be withheld because of the travel ban.

Tour buses have become common sights at the Roman ruins in Baalbek, replacing the bearded gunmen who made the Bekaa Valley town in eastern Lebanon their stronghold.

"There is nothing to worry about," said Jomana Basbous of Nakhal Tours, whose clients come mainly from France and Italy.

Police want new recruits in West Bank

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal called Tuesday for thousands of additional border police to be recruited to patrol the West Bank in the coming months as Palestinian self-rule spreads.

"The redeployment of the army from built-up Palestinian areas on the West Bank will require the recruitment and deployment of thousands of border guards," he said. The men were needed to maintain security on roads and around Israeli areas, Mr. Shahal told Israeli Radio. He was referring not only to Jewish settlers but also to four land corridors to enable Palestinians to travel in safety between Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Shahal said 800 border guards had already been recruited but their numbers were not enough.

Lebanon charges Israel with systematic art theft

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon

has repeated its charge that Israeli occupation forces systematically looted its archaeological sites during the 1980s and it vowed to seek Interpol's help to recover stolen treasures worth millions of dollars.

Israeli forces carried out archaeological pillage in the eastern Bekaa Valley and South Lebanon during their 1982-85 occupation, Culture Minister Michel Edde says.

He accused Israel of conspiring with an "international mafia" of unscrupulous people in the art world to spirit artefacts abroad.

"Israel's occupation forces indulged in a general pillage of archaeological sites where the Lebanese government had undertaken excavations, notably in the region of Tyre and at Kamed Al Loz (in the Bekaa)," Mr. Edde said.

Addressing a gathering in the Bekaa town of Baalbek at the weekend, he said statues from the 4th century BC Temple of Eshmoun near Sidon were stolen and sent to Zurich.

Eshmoun was a Hellenistic-Persian god of health and many statues of children were found the temple site.

"The Israelis were able, with the connivance of the international mafia, to take out of the country an archaeological treasure estimated at millions of dollars and we are going to try, through Interpol, to recover what has been stolen from us," Mr. Edde said.

It was the second time in less than two weeks that Mr. Edde has charged Israel with looting Lebanon's vast but neglected cultural treasures.

He first levelled the charges on Sept. 1 at the inauguration of a non-governmental association to protect and restore South Lebanon's cultural riches and beauty spots ravaged by civil war and two Israeli invasions.

In contrast, Mr. Edde thanked Syrian troops now deployed in the Bekaa Valley for helping to protect the spectacular Roman temple of Jupiter and Bacchus at Baalbek, which he called "the main archaeological centre of the Middle East."

Mr. Edde said the government was trying to recover archaeological treasures from the Kamed Al Loz site sent to Germany for protection during the 1975-90 civil war by the Directorate-General of Antiquities.

He also warned Lebanese citizens against looting archaeological sites, many of which are unguarded and have not been professionally excavated.

He said everything underground belonged to the state and anyone finding an artefact should inform the director-general of antiquities and would receive a reward of 30 per cent of its value.

Measures had been taken at Beirut airport and frontier posts to prevent smuggling of archaeological artefacts abroad, Mr. Edde said.

Tales from the South — an artistic side to the ICPD

From Mariam M. Shahin
in Cairo

AT A conference where stories of failed abortions, horrors of female circumcision, pains of forced sterilisation and obstruction of human rights have held centre stage for the past 10 days a weekend showing of "cinema and development from the Third World," with tales of both love and sorrow came as a welcome change.

Tales told by filmmakers from Palestine, Mozambique, Haiti and India recount stories about several of the conference's topics — migration, poverty, resource depletion and the environment.

Driven by hunger, war and love, heroes of the tales from the Third World take different routes to fulfill their hearts' desires and pro-

vide for their children lest they die of want. South to South, land to sea journeys in the Third World are long and arduous.

"The Tale of Three Lost Jewels," a television movie directed by Palestinian Michel Khleifi. "Dioscuren Dialogue with Death," directed by Haitian Raoul Peck. "The Tree of Our Forefathers," directed by Mozambican Licio Azevedo, and "The Legacy of Malthus" directed by India's Deepa Dhanraj made their debut at the conference this week.

Already shown on Egyptian Television the day the conference opened, the four films are part of a series of "developing stories" — co-produced by the BBC with Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) and commissioned by One World Group of Broadcasters, a consortium of Euro-

pean public service TV stations, to give a platform to filmmakers from the developing world to reflect how the South perceives developmental issues.

The four movies are currently being broadcast in 15 European countries. TV2, through its subsidised distribution service, is making the series available to TV stations and for educational use throughout the developing world.

Lost Jewels

The Tale of the Three Lost Jewels is set in Gaza before self-rule. As Mr. Khleifi has used a love story as a medium for his message. This time, however, the hero of the story is a young boy rather than a woman. Caught in adolescent love, a 12-year-old Youssef, a refugee from one of Gaza's many squalid

camp, is looking for the lost jewels of his beloved Aida's grandmother.

Aida, a girl his own age from the Palestinian countryside, has told him that his dream of marrying her when they grow up will only be possible if he manages to procure her grandmother's jewels, which Aida believes are lost in South America.

Youssef does all he can to find a venue to reach the far-off continent to meet the demands of the young girl that he hopes will become his bride. While it seems so very simple a request to migrate, how many men in the Arab World migrate to the Gulf to seek that very thing — for a bride?

Youssef is caught between the responsibilities of caring for his mother and sister. His father is in jail and his brother a fugitive from the

Israeli authorities. Yet even under such circumstance the strength of love is all prevailing.

In his effort to reach Latin America he is caught in an shipping container bound for that continent when an Israeli curfew is declared. Aida finds out that her "grandmother's" jewels are not in Latin America at all but were left behind in her parent's home city of Jaffa when the family was forced to flee during the 1948 war. The Israelis took not only the city but its jewels as well.

As timely, if not more urgent in many ways, is Peck's film "Dioscuren Dialogue with Death." Set in Haiti the story tells the tale of an old man who travels through a decrepit countryside with his only companion — a death.

Together they meet a cross-section of Haitians who have defied and survived the fate imposed on them by immense poverty, environmental destitution and political oppression.

Indian director Dhanraj challenges conventional wisdom that population causes destitution and poverty in "The Legacy of Malthus." In his tale contemporary Indian farmers are not only self-sufficient, but healthy and protective of the environment.

The plight of refugees in the 20th century is examined by Mozambican director Azevedo. A Mozambican family forced to migrate to Malawi as a result of the civil war in their country, return home after nine years of exile. "The Tree of Our Forefathers" documents the perils of forced migration and in this case a return.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 N.B.A. sport
17:30 News in French
18:45 Mosaique Mathematiques
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Bob
21:10 The Nature of Things
22:00 News in English
22:20 The Nanny
23:10 Faldark

PRAYER TIMES

04:55 Fair
06:14 (Sunrise) Dhul
12:33 Dhul
16:04 Dhul
18:59 Maghreb
20:09 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swetlitz, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637753
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440
De la Salle Church Tel. 621757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 626365
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684192
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 659322
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Hot and dry weather conditions will prevail with winds southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot with winds southerly moderate and seas choppy.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 24/39
Aqaba 26/42
Dorsets 22/41
Jordan Valley 28/45

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 38 Aqaba 39, Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 12 per cent. Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Al Maari 675485
Dr. Hassan Kar'an 790236
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 723336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shmiesani pharmacy 637660
Nairoah pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu 279773
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Fawaz Hamdallah 903644
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 623101
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Alkibh Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642562
Malthas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiesani 664171/4
Shmiesani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Musader Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abadi 666127/27
Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164/6
Italin, Al-Muhajroon 77101/9
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/25
Army, I.Marks 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602420/50
Arnal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital Paris (RU)
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hilma Modern Hospital (09)990560
IBJD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)341111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

11:10 Damascus (AZ)
11:25 Laraca (CY)
11:30 Yemou (IV)
11:30 Jeddah (SV)

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30 Jeddah (RU)
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RU)
10:15 Laraca (RU)
10:25 Bahrain, Doha (RU)
10:30 New York, Amsterdam (RU)
17:15 Madrid (RU)
17:25 London (RU)
18:25 Istanbul (RU)
18:25 Paris (RU)
19:00 Brussels, Geneva (RU)
19:10 Toronto, Montreal (RU)
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RU)
19:30 Rome (RU)
00:40 Beirut (RU)
01:28 Cairo (RU)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:10 Damascus (AZ)
11:25 Laraca (CY)
11:30 Yemou (IV)
11:30 Jeddah (SV)

13:05 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
15:05 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (FK)
15:20 Algiers (AH)
18:25 Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:15 Beirut (ME)
21:30 Dubai (EK)
23:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:30 Rome (RU)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RU)
11:25 Berlin, London (RU)
12:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RU)
12:40 Istanbul (RU)
13:00 Colombo (RU)
13:25 Beirut (RU)
16:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RU)
17:05 Riyadh (RU)
21:05 New Delhi (RU)
21:30 Aden (RU)
22:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RU)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU)
23:45 Sana'a (RU)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:30 Beirut, Paris (AF)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
12:10 Rome (AZ)
12:15 Laraca (CY)
12:30 Yemou (IV)
13:



ARAB BANK

Established in Jerusalem 1930

Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1994 and 1993

Assets	1994	1993	Liabilities and	1994	1993
	JOD ('000)	JOD ('000)	Shareholders' Equity	JOD ('000)	JOD ('000)
Cash and due from banks	3,513,264	3,622,415	Deposits and other accounts	6,996,234	6,791,678
Securities and investments	975,258	810,371	Acceptances	104,567	73,203
Loans and advances	2,882,059	2,672,794	Accrued interest payable	40,402	35,375
Customers' liability on			Other liabilities	40,808	40,403
acceptances	104,567	73,203	Capital	44,000	44,000
Premises and equipment	48,629	42,642	Statutory reserve	44,000	36,000
Accrued interest receivable	45,893	45,207	Voluntary reserve	75,000	60,000
Other assets	44,341	62,027	General reserve	269,000	248,000
Total Assets	7,614,011	7,328,659	Total Liabilities and		
Customers' liability on			Shareholders' Equity	7,614,011	7,328,659
guarantees and letters of credit	2,775,189	2,426,660	Guarantees and letters of credit	2,775,189	2,426,660
Total	10,389,200	9,755,319	Total	10,389,200	9,755,319

Net profit for the period ended 30 June 1994 and 30 June 1993 was included in "Other liabilities"

ARAB BANK, GENERAL MANAGEMENT, SHMEISANI, AMMAN, P.O. BOX 950544-5.
TELEPHONE : 607115, 660131, TELEX : 23091 ARABNK JO, FAX : (962) (6) 606793

Hindu politician hunted as strike hits key Indian state

LUCKNOW, India (R) — Indian police hunted a Hindu nationalist politician accused of killing a Muslim opponent Tuesday, a day of high tension in Uttar Pradesh state over government job reservation plans.

A senior official told reporters that Banwari Lal Dohre, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member of the state assembly, shot dead the ruling party's Kalu Pathan in a confrontation during a strike called by the government to support the controversial jobs plan.

Uttar Pradesh Home (interior) Secretary A.P. Singh told reporters Mr. Pathan was shot near the city of Kanpur during an altercation over whether a local market should be shut down.

Mr. Dohre left behind the gun he was alleged to have used but was being hunted by police, Mr. Singh said.

Mr. Pathan's was the only death reported by mid-afternoon in a strike with a high potential for violence

and which closed huge swathes of a state which is home to 150 million of India's 900 million people.

Officials and witnesses reported numerous minor incidents as the strike took a firm grip on most of the state.

The only exception to the shutdown was the hill region bordering Tibet, where the population is largely upper caste and opposes the plan to reserve 27 per cent of government jobs and educational opportunities for the low castes.

Shopkeepers there opened up at the unheard-of hour of 5 a.m. and offered a discount of 27 per cent on all goods in protest at the plan, which has fuelled a drive for the region to break away from Uttar Pradesh and become the state of Uttarakhanda.

But in the main Uttar Pradesh cities of Lucknow, the capital, Allahabad and Kanpur, nearly all shops were shut and those that tried to open were forced to close again by pro-reservationists.

There were minor clashes between shopkeepers who wanted to open up and police intent on keeping them closed to head off trouble, witnesses said.

Drivers were attacked with stones and protesters halted several main-line trains by squatting on the tracks. Schools had already been ordered closed until Thursday and all buses were ordered off the roads.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav, who rebuffed an appeal from Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to call off the strike, pledged firm action against troublemakers.

Thousands of riot police were deployed across Uttar Pradesh to prevent trouble in a state which has seen some ferocious violence in past years over religion and caste and which has been a key political battleground, producing most of India's prime ministers.

In the latest round of turmoil in the state, which has

changed political hands three times in the past five years, at least 10 people have been killed in protests against the quota plan.

Several were killed by police who fired on people protesting against a plan being pushed by Mr. Yadav's coalition government, which twins his leftist Samajwadi Party with the Bahujan Samaj Party that seeks to represent the lowest castes.

The furor has led to widespread speculation that Mr. Rao might fire Mr. Yadav's government, as the BJP is urging him to do.

Two hackers of Mr. Yadav's coalition, Mr. Rao's Congress Party and the Janata Dal Party, denounced the quota plan as a bid to divide the state by class, and the state branch of Congress said Sunday it was withdrawing support for the 10-month-old government.

But Mr. Yadav said he retained enough support to win a vote of confidence in the state assembly.



New Quebec Prime Minister Jacques Parizeau of the separatist Parti Quebecois is surrounded by journalists and supporters in Quebec as he celebrates his party's victory over the Liberal Party in Sunday's elections. Mr. Parizeau has promised a referendum within a year whether French-speaking Quebec should split from English-speaking Canada (AFP photo)

Quebec separatists win; plan referendum

MONTREAL (Agencies) — Quebec's new separatist government must decide how quickly to move towards its goal of independence from Canada after scoring a convincing victory in Monday's provincial election.

The Parti Quebecois (PQ) returns to power following nine years as the opposition after winning 77 of the 125 seats in Quebec's provincial legislature. The Liberals were ousted after garnering 47 seats.

Premier-Elect Jacques Parizeau told a victory rally Monday night he would hold a referendum next year to see if Quebecers want to split from Canada. But he also emphasised that the new Quebec government would work to improve the economy of Canada's biggest province.

A very slim margin in popular vote — 45 per cent for the PQ and 44 per cent for the Liberals — means the separatists will have an uphill battle to convince people in the French-speaking province to split from Canada.

Political analysts had said the PQ needed at least 50 per cent of the popular vote in order to enter into a referendum campaign on good footing.

Throughout the campaign, opinion polls showed Quebecers who were fed up with high taxes, a rising deficit and double digit unemployment were planning to vote for the PQ for a change of government, not as tacit approval for separation.

The polls also consistently showed that Quebecers are not ready for independence.

Admitting he could not comment officially on the internal affairs of another country, he said his personal opinion is that Canada should not break apart.

The world is moving together, not splitting apart, he said. He said differences among people are fine, but should not come at the expense of any other group.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, standing by his side during the trilingual news conference, called Mr. Walesa's remarks "a marvelous improvisation."

The Polish leader had just finished brief talks with Mr. Chretien as part of a four-day visit to Canada.

The two men discussed business opportunities for Canadian investment in Poland as well as Poland's bid to become part of NATO.

Canada has supported NATO membership for Poland for some time, Mr. Chretien said.

"When Poland decided to separate from the Soviet Union, we told them that some day they would become part of NATO and we have to respect our part of the deal," he said.

Mr. Walesa said he is grateful for Canada's support and hopes other countries come around.

"The prime minister is very much aware of all the arguments in favour of (our) joining," Mr. Walesa said. "The prime minister is also very much familiar with the possibilities, the capacities and the need. We are very happy that this is the case."

Japan to make bid for U.N. Council seat

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan announced Tuesday that it will formally seek a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council this month, but will insist that it cannot take part in military operations.

The statement triggered discussion in Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's coalition cabinet and a protest by groups fearing that Japan is shedding the pacifist principles it has espoused since its defeat in World War II.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono told a cabinet meeting that he will declare Japan's candidacy in an address before the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Sept. 27.

"I wish to say we will actively cooperate with peacekeeping efforts within the limits of our constitution, after making clear that we cannot take part in action aimed at using force, which is prohibited under our constitution," Mr. Kono said.

Chief cabinet secretary and government spokesman Kozo Igarashi said the cabinet had decided to leave the drafting of the U.N. speech to Mr. Kono, who is also deputy prime minister.

With the move Mr. Murayama, the first Socialist premier in 47 years, veered away from a cautious approach to the controversial issue.

Mr. Murayama had said in his inaugural speech in July that his government would first seek support from Japanese voters and neighboring countries in Asia before launching its candidacy.

He gained the backing he wanted from some South East Asian leaders during a regional tour in August, marked by a consistent message of apology for his country's wartime acts.

Analysts say that some Asian nations want Japan to be a counterweight to China, the only other Asian nation with a permanent Council seat. The other four permanent members are Britain, France, Russia and the United States.

Dovish elements of Mr. Murayama's Social Democratic Party (SDP) also softened their stance against the bid on condition that Japan make clear that its constitution will not allow it to play a military role.

Tuesday's decision, however, drew open criticism from two of the 21 cabinet ministers.

Health and Welfare Minister Shoichi Ide, a member of the small New Party Sakigake, said in a press conference after the cabinet meeting that "more debate" was needed before Japan went for the Council seat.

national defence "that didn't refer to the thousands of Jews," he said.

The president said he stopped seeing Mr. Bousquet in 1986 when he learned he might have been linked to the deportation of Jews. The indictment was filed in 1989 but Mr. Klarsfeld said Mr. Bousquet's past was well documented long before.

Mr. Mitterrand also defended his early right-wing sympathies, saying he joined the resistance early in the war while he was a Vichy civil servant.

"Taken one by one, his explanations will seem plausible to those who like him, and inadequate to others," the left-wing newspaper Liberation said in an editorial.

Franz-Olivier Giesbert, editor of the conservative daily Le Figaro, highlighted the solitude of a president whose 14 years in power were drawing to a close, with his former friends turning against him.

"Sunsets are always less attractive than dawns. In the words of a sage: 'When the oak has been felled, everyone becomes a woodcutter'."

Mr. Mitterrand had hidden behind a 1949 High Court acquittal of Mr. Bousquet on a charge of harming France's

Nigerians need to work 11 hours to earn hamburger

LONDON (R) — Nigerians must work more than 11 hours to earn enough money to buy a hamburger and fries compared to just 14 minutes for a Chicago office worker, a survey showed Tuesday. The Union Bank of Switzerland, seeking to compare wages worldwide, published a chart showing how long the global citizen needs to work to earn his or her hamburger. The time stretched from 24 minutes in Chicago to 683 minutes in Lagos. "In North America, a mere 19 minutes of working time is enough on average to secure a (McDonald's) Big Mac along with a large portion of French fries," it said in the report. "But the hamburger attains luxury status in the cities of Nairobi, Caracas and Lagos," it added. The working time for a person in Caracas to earn a hamburger and fries was 243 minutes and in Nairobi 177 minutes.

British's VIP escorts to be armed

British's VIP escorts to be armed

LONDON (AFP) — Police officers charged with escorting VIPs and guarding Britain's royal palaces are to be armed, a Scotland Yard spokesman said. The special escort group, also charged with accompanying dangerous prisoners, are the third category of police officers to be allowed permanent licenses to carry arms in the capital. Other groups to be allowed to carry arms are the 50 officers of the Special Emergency Group and the officers protecting Downing Street and diplomatic residences. Scotland Yard did not say how many police officers would now be allowed to carry arms in Britain but said ordinary police officers would still be unarmed. Both police authorities and the general public are reluctant to allow police constables to carry arms, fearing it could spark an increase in criminal violence.

Light-fingered art fans cash in on Chinese work

LONDON (R) — Light-fingered art fans have cashed in on a Chinese student's masterpiece, helping themselves to £100 (£155) from cash that he had carefully arranged on a gallery floor. Shanghai-born artist Jian Jun Xi placed the money around the floor at London's Goldsmith College as a comment on materialism. Now he has doctored a security uniform and recruited friends to protect the £1,100 (£1,714) still left on his work. "The people who stole the money must have been kids. They are not worth worrying about," he told the Daily Mail.

China denies banning Zhang from making movies

BEIJING (AFP) — China denied reports that it had banned the country's best-known director, Zhang Yimou, from making films for five years as punishment for screening his most recent picture abroad without approval. "These reports are groundless," said a spokesman for the Ministry of Radio, Film and Television's Film Bureau, referring to stories Monday in two Hong Kong newspapers, the Overseas Chinese Daily News and the Express News. The Overseas Chinese Daily News quoted a Chinese newspaper identified as the Radio, Television and Film News as saying Zhang had been banned from making any films, including co-productions with foreign countries for a five-year period. The so-called "Fifth Generation" director and his favoured actress and muse, Gong Li, had also been barred from travelling abroad for international film festivals, it quoted the newspaper as saying, adding that the move had sparked a flurry of protests from independent-minded Chinese film-makers. "This newspaper does not even exist," the film bureau spokesman said, adding, "there was any kind of ban on Zhang Yimou then we would have never heard of this punishment." However, he confirmed reports that work on Zhang's latest project, Shanghai, had stopped, but said this was only a "temporary delay" and had nothing to do with any official ban.

Encouraged by Cubans gather

SWANA (AP) — A group of about 100 Cubans gathered in a park in Havana to celebrate the anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. They were joined by a large number of people from the United States who had come to the city to visit their relatives. The Cubans were holding a large flag and singing the national anthem. The Americans were also holding flags and singing the American national anthem. The gathering was peaceful and lasted for several hours.

Belgium's Claes set for top NATO job

LONDON (R) — Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes is almost certain to become the next head of NATO after winning the support of most European allies and the acceptance of the United States, diplomats said Tuesday.

The 16-nation alliance, facing big challenges in Bosnia and Eastern Europe, has been seeking a new secretary-general since Manfred Wörner died last month after a two-year battle against cancer.

The diplomats, based in Brussels and London, told Reuters that the other two candidates — the Netherlands' Hans Van Den Broek and Norway's Thorvald Stoltenberg — were widely expected to withdraw quietly, perhaps within a few days.

"The emerging sense is that Claes is the man," said one official, who asked not to be identified. "Unless there's a last-minute veto or a brand new candidate, both of which are highly unlikely, the Belgians appear to have got it sewn up," said another diplomat from a NATO country.

The United States, NATO's senior member, had indicated that it would accept Mr. Claes if he emerged as the main European candidate and Washington was expected to make a more formal commitment soon, diplomats said.

A Socialist who support a

stronger European defence role in the post-cold war world, Mr. Claes was backed initially by France and had managed to secure the support of many other allies in the last few days.

Diplomats said the turning point in his campaign was a meeting of European Union foreign ministers in Germany at the weekend. Eleven of the 12 EU states are also in NATO, with neutral Ireland the only exception.

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Bangladesh strike ends amid sporadic violence

DHAKA (AFP) — A dawn-to-dusk general strike ended in Bangladesh Tuesday amid sporadic violence, the culmination of a four-day protest aimed at bringing down the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Strikers and pro-government forces hurled home-made bombs at each other, witnesses said, while the United News of Bangladesh news agency said groups of armed men were seen driving around shouting anti-strike slogans.

Dhaka's streets mainly empty, while shops, schools and most businesses were closed.

Buses were running with heavy police escorts, but few people were using them.

Residents reached by telephone in Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Barisal said the strike was also followed in those cities.

Witnesses said one man was seriously injured in a bomb blast near the high security government secretariat complex.

Staff at Dhaka Medical College Hospital said several people were treated and discharged, but three, two suffering from bullet wounds, were admitted.

Unidentified people torched a taxi carrying a reporter from an opposition daily.

to determine... whether this was a plane that ran out of gas. Did someone have a heart attack? — We just didn't have a good sense of what was involved. Or was it a diversion? Was something (else) going to come? So we immediately put our emergency plan into action."

Mr. Myer said the plane apparently "was stolen from the Hartford County airport" north of Baltimore, Maryland, on the evening of Sept. 11. He said Corder had been identified by members of his family as well as by fingerprints. The pilot was declared dead as a result of crash injuries by the medical examiner for the District of Columbia. An autopsy has not yet been done.

Before taking questions, Mr. Noble told reporters that he would not be able to answer most of them. Asked how the incident could have occurred, he replied, "That's precisely the sort of question I can't answer. You don't want me to pre-judge my investigation... just as you — if you had an alarm system on your house — you wouldn't give me the code for it, I'm not here to give you specific answers."

Asked if Corder was a forced landing, or if he intended to crash into the mansion, Mr. Myer replied, "We don't have the answer to that."

While the officials refused to entertain questions about whether the president had changed the "pattern" of his day because of the incident, Mr. Myer acknowledged there was a different level of security operating at the White House because the Clintons were not in residence. Secret Service personnel and resources, he suggested, cluster near the president's location.

When he is accused, he reacts as if he had never made a mistake. It would be good if the president, at least once, told us: 'I was wrong.'"

Former Health Minister Bernard Kouchner, who is close to Mr. Mitterrand, said he was still hungry for an explanation of his contacts with Rene Bousquet, the chief of police in the French regime that collaborated with Nazi occupation in World War II.

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Aerial view taken from the Washington Monument shows members of various government agencies gathering on the South Lawn of the White House to investigate the crash of a small aircraft that flew into the grounds (AFP photo)

Clinton vows White House will be kept safe, will remain open

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Bill Clinton has pledged the White House "will be kept safe, will be kept open and the people's business will go on."

Moving to assure the nation about the security of the White House after a single-engine aircraft crashed on the South Lawn and deposited its wreckage against the base of a White House wall, Mr. Clinton called the presidential residence "an enduring symbol of our democracy" that informs people around the world that "the mission of America continues."

Mr. Clinton said it is the duty of every president "to keep (the White House) safe and secure," adding an investigation is under way "to determine how and why this happened."

The two-seater Cessna's pilot, who was killed in the crash, has been identified as Frank Corder, 38. News reports assert he was a truck driver at Baltimore-Washington International Airport and had held a pilot's licence for 10 years.

The incident occurred at 1:49 a.m. (local time), as President Clinton and his family were asleep at Blair House, the government guest complex diagonally across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House. The Clintons are staying there while renovations of the White House heating and air conditioning system are completed.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, who has responsibility for the Secret Service, immediately ordered a 90-day "thorough review" of security measures, including the possibility of another aircraft intrusion into the restricted air space around the White House. He directed

Ron Noble, assistant treasury secretary for enforcement, to coordinate the review with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Aviation Administration and state and local police authorities. The review is separate from the investigation of the crash itself.

Mr. Noble told reporters he plans to conduct the review "in the most thorough, exhaustive and complete manner possible" and to analyse "all available information."

The dead pilot, according to Carl Myer of the Secret Service, had a criminal record and a history of alcohol abuse. While stressing the investigation had barely begun, Mr. Myer said it did not appear Corder had any political agenda or any animus against Mr. Clinton. "It's really too early to tell," he told a question, "but preliminarily, no, it does not appear to be directed towards the president."

The plane crash triggered an emergency response from the Uniformed Secret Service, whose members patrol the White House grounds. (The president's personal security is provided by the Presidential Protective Detail, whose members are clad in civilian attire).

Mr. Myer said notification of the incoming aircraft had been radioed to the Secret command centre, which advised appropriate federal departments in case the aircraft crash was staged as a diversion. The Secret Service then quickly determined that the aircraft no explosives or other dangerous material, Mr. Myer said, adding there were no weapons aboard.

"There are officers posted out there," Myer reminded reporters, who would have notified superior officers "instantaneously, and as the notifications went in, we had

to determine... whether this was a plane that ran out of gas. Did someone have a heart attack? — We just didn't have a good sense of what was involved. Or was it a diversion? Was something (else) going to come? So we immediately put our emergency plan into action."

Mr. Myer said the plane apparently "was stolen from the Hartford County airport" north of Baltimore, Maryland, on the evening of Sept. 11. He said Corder had been identified by members of his family as well as by fingerprints. The pilot was declared dead as a result of crash injuries by the medical examiner for the District of Columbia. An autopsy has not yet been done.

Before taking questions, Mr. Noble told reporters that he would not be able to answer most of them. Asked how the incident could have occurred, he replied, "That's precisely the sort of question I can't answer. You don't want me to pre-judge my investigation... just as you — if you had an alarm system on your house — you wouldn't give me the code for it, I'm not here to give you specific answers."

Asked if Corder was a forced landing, or if he intended to crash into the mansion, Mr. Myer replied, "We don't have the answer to that."

While the officials refused to entertain questions about whether the president had changed the "pattern" of his day because of the incident, Mr. Myer acknowledged there was a different level of security operating at the White House because the Clintons were not in residence. Secret Service personnel and resources, he suggested, cluster near the president's location.

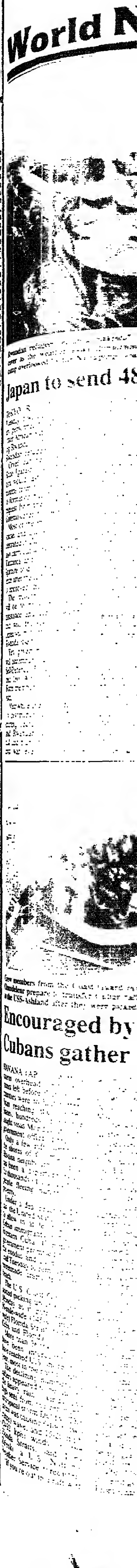
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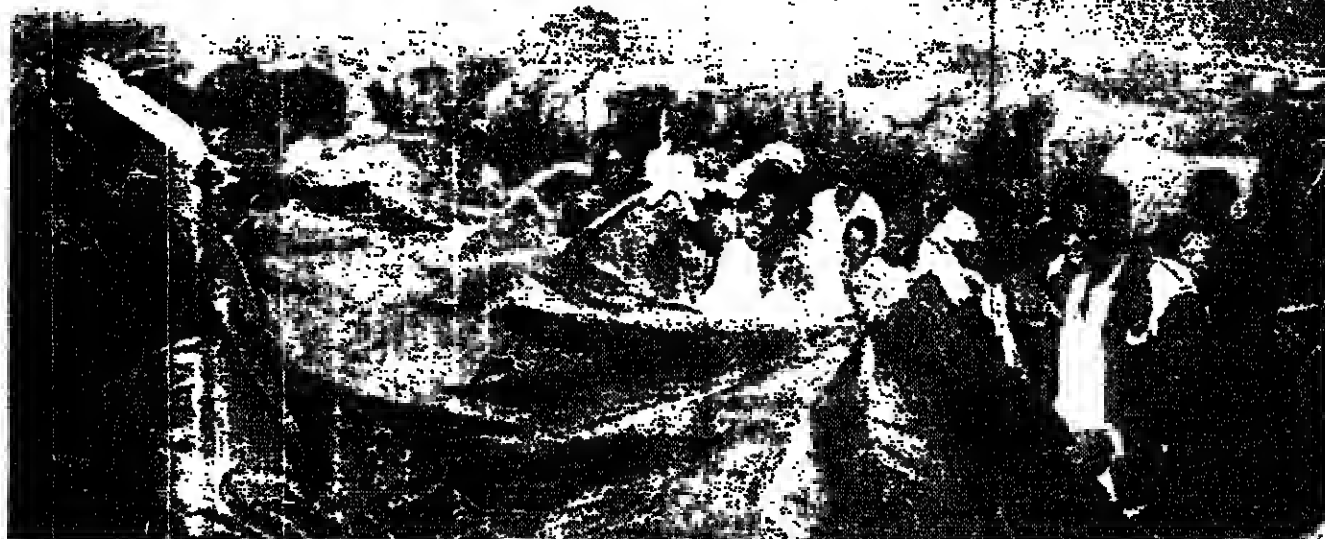
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Rwandan refugees set up a makeshift tent with a plastic cover as the weather looks threatening at the Kibumba camp overlooked by the Nyiragongo volcano. An estimated

one million Rwandan refugees are still in eastern Zaire, mainly in camps around the towns of Goma and Bukavu (AFP photo)

Japan to send 480-strong mission to Rwanda

TOKYO (R) — Japan said Tuesday it would send military personnel to Zaire and other African nations bordering Rwanda to give relief to Rwandan refugees there.

Chief cabinet secretary Kozo Igarashi said the mission would last about three months from this week, and its formation had followed a request from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Most of the mission's personnel and aid will be concentrated in Zaire, but it will also carry out work in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, Mr. Igarashi told a news conference after the cabinet formally approved the mission.

The mission's main task will be to provide medical assistance and clean water, and will transport goods, Japan will not send people to Rwanda itself.

Ten government officials will accompany 290 ground Self-Defence Force officers and 180 Air Self-Defence Force members on the mission.

Meanwhile the French daily newspaper Liberation, quoting secret documents, said Rwandan army chiefs had laid plans to unleash a civil war even before the

murder of President Juvenal Habyarimana.

The shooting down of Mr. Habyarimana's plane on April 6 sparked the massacre of nearly a million Rwandans, widely blamed on the Hutu government then in power, its army and tribal militia allies.

Liberation published what it said were extracts of a letter sent on March 30 by the army chief of staff to the defence minister, showing the army was arming and training civilians to combat the "enemy," including refugees of the minority Tutsi tribe, several priests and businessmen.

The newspaper said its documents showed the Rwandan Armed Forces (FAR) was the architect behind the killings which followed the murder of Mr. Habyarimana.

In a letter on March 23, Augustin Iyamuremye, head of the intelligence service, warned Mr. Habyarimana: "If the authorities of this country do nothing to stop the spiral of violence, the country risks sinking into chaos."

He was referring to the

climate of insecurity reigning in the capital. The city was plagued by armed bands.

A week later, military and civilian authorities hatched a "plan for popular self-defence," for each neighbourhood of Kigali to be placed under the authority of a military official, according to minutes of a meeting published by Liberation.

The authorities would draw up a list of fighters, and distribute weapons and ammunition.

They would also "teach the population about handling traditional weapons (swords, lances, machetes and bows and arrows) given there are too few firearms," the document said.

The minutes also detail plans for hunting down "the enemy and its partisans" in groups including Tutsi refugees, foreigners married to Tutsi women, priests, professors and businessmen, Liberation said.

In a separate development, a top U.N. official said Monday that he was concerned by the "fragile security situation" in the Rwandan refugee camps and feared for the safety of an estimated 1,000

foreign aid workers now in eastern Zaire.

"I fear in coming weeks it is going to be messy," said James P. Grant, executive director of UNICEF, who met with Zairean bused in nearby camps, coincided with a visit by a U.N. representative to Zaire and Tanzania to ask their governments for help preventing more violent clashes.

U.N. special representative Shariyay Khan flew to Kinshasa, capital of Zaire, from Kigali, the Rwandan capital. He plans to travel later to Tanzania.

In Goma, Mr. Grant met with vice governor of Goma and emphasised the urgent need to maintain security.

"It is very clear that there is an urgent need to stop disinformation and act of terrorism by a section of the Rwandan refugees," Mr. Grant said of reports that the exiled Rwandan soldiers and militia were behind bloodshed in the camps.

"To check the violence, we also need active cooperation of the Zairean government and this is what I discussed with the officials here," said Mr. Grant, who came to Goma from Kigali.

Panetta says U.S. will rally to Clinton on Haiti invasion

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta predicted Tuesday that Americans would rally behind President Bill Clinton in the event of a U.S.-led invasion of Haiti, despite a poll which suggests otherwise.

"I always believe that the American people unify behind the president when he has to take that action," Mr. Panetta said on ABC Television's Good Morning America programme.

"The American people always rally to their president. That's part of the great strength of this country," he said, responding to results of an ABC poll that showed 73 per cent of Americans oppose a Haiti invasion.

Keeping in line with stated U.S. policy, Mr. Panetta has no timetable for any invasion, but said it could be soon.

"I think the message is pretty clear that the military leadership (in Haiti) is reaching the end of the string here... We have sent a very clear message that the time to step down is now... we have not set a fixed timetable. We continue to hope the sanctions will work," Mr. Panetta said.

Former Vice President Dan Quayle said Monday the United States should abandon plans to lead an invasion of Haiti and should stop trying to reinstate President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

An invasion of Haiti will further damage the credibility of President Clinton, Mr. Quayle told reporters after addressing about 600 people

at a \$100 per person dinner in a conservative town in the heart of the Bible Belt.

Mr. Aristide was deposed in a military coup in 1991.

"People abroad in the international community are baffled that be (Clinton) is contemplating an invasion of Haiti where there is absolutely no national security interest at all for us to invade Haiti, to risk one American life, to restore Aristide's power," Mr. Quayle said.

"It shows the ineptitude and the lack of respect and credibility that this president has," Mr. Quayle said.

As he stressed family values, Mr. Quayle told a dinner sponsored by the National Association of Christian Athletes that tax and welfare laws discouraging two-parent families should be changed.

"We now have a marriage tax penalty where two people who are wage-earners pool their income and they're in a higher tax bracket," Mr. Quayle said. "We should never penalise marriage. Marriage should be rewarded."

"We should reward parents who have children. We should increase the personal deduction for children and we should index it to the rate of inflation."

Mr. Quayle said he will not decide whether to run for president in 1996 until after this year's elections.

He was speaking at one of several political events in Tennessee sponsored by the state-wide religious roundtable.

Meanwhile, Caribbean soldiers begin a crash course in

peacekeeping Tuesday, part of a growing world commitment to an invasion force Washington hopes will convince Haiti's generals to step down.

The 150 soldiers from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize and Jamaica who landed Monday night in Roosevelt Roads Naval Station are the first of a 17-nation, 1,500-member force. It's intended to give legitimacy to any U.S.-led intervention.

Fifty more soldiers were arriving Tuesday from Trinidad and Tobago. Colleagues from other Caribbean nations will be arriving for training by the end of the week, said U.S. Army Maj. Steve Patton.

But Haiti's army leaders, who seized power three years ago from that country's first democratically elected government, don't seem impressed. On Monday, more than 1,000 militiamen practiced firing with empty M-1 rifles and trotted around the national palace in downtown Port-Au-Prince in a show of defiance to any foreign invaders.

Washington hopes the highly publicised invasion preparations will persuade Haiti's army leaders to leave power, making an invasion unnecessary. But the U.S. government has indicated some sort of peacekeeping force still would be needed to help restore the elected government even if coup leaders step down.

If the training mission works as intended, the deployment of a multinational force would allow some

American troops to leave Haiti soon after an invasion ousts Haitian coup leaders and restores elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Training for the Caribbean soldiers begins Wednesday.

U.S. Army Special Forces Col. Travis Griffin envisions three weeks of training in southern Pueno Rico before the newly unified contingent could be sent to control crowds and maintain order in Haiti.

But the training mission may be cut short as the Pentagon pushes up its timetable to force out Haiti's coup leaders, a senior American official said Monday night on condition of anonymity.

"There is no doubt in my mind that you'll be able to fulfill the role of the mission to come," added Jamaican Lt. Col. Linton Graham, the chief for what will be a 266-member Caribbean contingent. "I wish you luck."

The Green Berets, from the 3rd U.S. Army Special Forces group based in Fort Bragg, N.C., train foreign soldiers regularly. Several of the trainers speak fluent Haitian Creole, Col. Griffin said.

The arrival of the multinational force came just hours after 1,300 Marines wrapped up six days of mock invasion exercises on the island of Vieques off Puerto Rico, part of the Roosevelt Roads Base.

In a separate development the New York Times said Tuesday repression in Haiti is worse than ever, according to a new human rights report to be released by the State Department to justify a U.S.-led invasion of the Caribbean nation.

Belfast, Dublin police review security after bomb

BELFAST (R) — Police in Northern Ireland and across the border in the Irish Republic reviewed security procedures Tuesday after Protestant extremists exploded a device on a busy train, injuring two people.

A report by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said if such attacks stopped and peace came to Northern Ireland, the economy could benefit with 29,000 jobs and \$545 million in investment every year.

The outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), extremist Protestant group fighting to make sure Northern Ireland stays British, said it planted the bomb and threatened more as a message to the government in Dublin.

"Northern Ireland is still British and will not be coerced, forced or persuaded into a united Ireland," the group said.

Police said the bomb misfired and only the detonator

went off — minutes after the train arrived at Dublin's central station. It could have killed passengers still on board.

The Irish cabinet planned a special meeting to discuss how to handle the attack.

There is virtually no security on trains between Belfast and Dublin although there are random checks and road blocks on many roads connecting Northern Ireland with the republic.

"We have to keep a balance between security and not disrupting day-to-day life in the province," said a police spokesman. "But the borders are a security matter and security is constantly under review."

What worries the UVF is the flurry of political activity surrounding an Irish Republican Army (IRA) ceasefire announced 13 days ago. The Republican IRA said it was ceasing all "military activity" in its war to unite the province with Ireland.

Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds welcomed Gerry Adams, head of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, to Dublin within days and the British government allowed a slight lowering of the security presence in Northern Ireland.

Protestant Unionists saw these as signals the IRA was being rewarded and suspected a secret deal had been made with the ultimate goal of diminishing their British status.

It said about £350 million (\$545 million) currently spent on police and security forces every year could be re-directed annually into economic development measures, including inward investment, tourism, transport infrastructure, education and training.

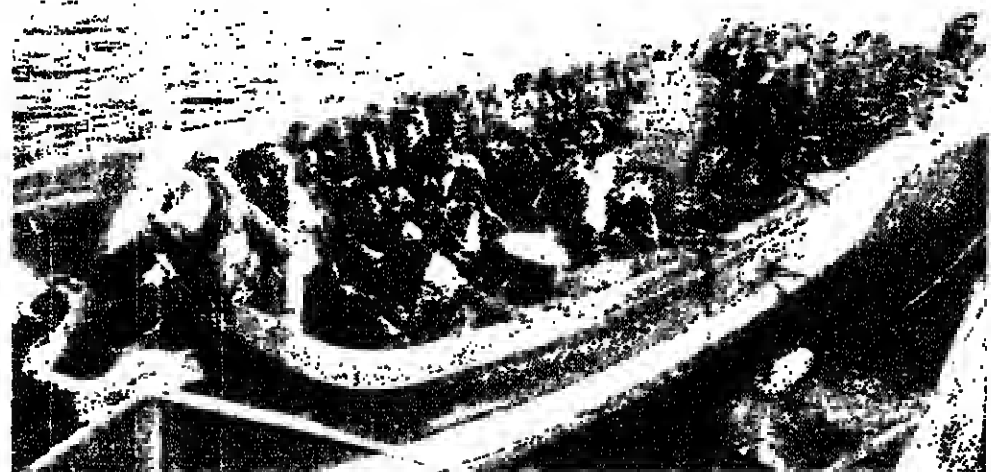
The report warned that the government would have to carefully manage the opportunity and make sure money and effort was re-directed to stimulate the province's economy.

Looking ahead to a positive outcome from the talks, the CBI issued the results of a six-month survey Tuesday, which found that job losses in the security services and surrounding industries could be ploughed back into the economy.

"It is estimated that by 1999 an additional 29,000 jobs and 20,000 employment places can be created as a result of achieving a permanent cessation of violence," the report said.

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Crew members from the Coast Guard cutter at sea some fifteen miles off the Cuban coast. Chandelair prepare to transfer Cuban rafters to the USS Ashland after they were picked up

Encouraged by immigration pact, Cubans gather at U.S. offices

HAVANA (AP) — With a storm overhead and only hours left before Cuban authorities were to halt rafters from reaching the United States, hundreds of people sought visas Monday at U.S. government offices here.

Only a few rafts were on the shores of Cojimar, the Havana neighbourhood that has been a departure point for thousands of Cuban boat people fleeing hunger and poverty.

Under a deal reached Friday, the United States agreed to allow in at least 20,000 Cuban immigrants annually. In return, Cuba's Communist government promised to halt the exodus and gave rafters until Tuesday to remove their homemade crafts from the beach.

The U.S. Coast Guard reported picking up 189 rafters Monday as it patrolled the 90-mile-wide (145-kilometre-wide) Florida Straits between Cuba and Florida.

More than 36,000 Cubans have been intercepted or have reached U.S. shores this year, most in the past month.

The declining numbers of rafters appeared to be due to the heavy rains, winds and high seas from the remnants of tropical storm Debby. The storm was causing 6-foot (two metre) waves and 15-20 mph (24-32 kph) winds on the Florida Straits, said Tony Zaleski, a U.S. National Weather Service forecaster.

waves of four to six feet (1.5 to 2 metres), you'll probably drown," Mr. Zaleski told the Associated Press from Miami.

The weather also was given as the reason for temporarily suspended U.S. flights of Cuban refugees from the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to detention facilities in Panama. The base now holds more than 24,000 Cuban boat people.

In Havana, crowds gathered in a park and on the street near the U.S. government offices. Some perched on stone walls, their bicycles propped up beside them.

"We've just got to be patient and wait," said Olga Rodriguez, sheltering herself from the sun with an umbrella. "If everything were all right in this country, we wouldn't have to go anywhere."

"I have more faith," said Ricardo Lamonte, a 56-year-old accountant who wants to visit relatives in Texas and California. "But I realise that not everybody can get in."

In the past, only a few thousand Cubans were allowed to immigrate to the United States each year, and most people who lined up outside the building seeking visas left empty-handed. The backlog is so great that visas being granted now were applied for 10 years ago.

The United States closed its embassy after President

maintains an interest section in the seafloor building that once housed the embassy. The interest section is technically an arm of the Swiss embassy.

Sonia Lobo, a 30-year-old school teacher, said she wasn't going to get her hopes up because her visa request had already been turned down twice.

"We'll see how it goes," she said. "You can't lose hope but you get fed up sometimes."

She said she hadn't wanted to flee in a homemade boat because the seas were too dangerous. Other people waiting said they were afraid of being taken to the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo.

The U.S.-Cuban agreement says Cubans detained at Guantanamo may not enter the United States. They can stay at the base, return to Cuba or seek refuge in a third country.

This weekend, frustrated Cubans at the base broke out of their camps, but U.S. Marines with fixed bayonets led most of them back to their tents. A 35-year-old Cuban suffered a hayonet wound Saturday and was hospitalised. U.S. officials said he was injured accidentally.

In the British-owned Cayman Islands just south of Cuba, the number of Cuban refugee arrivals rose to 932 over the weekend, overwhelming government re-

S. African township units begin police training

JOHANNESBURG (R) — About 500 members of black township militias, some of which gained a reputation for thuggery during the build-up to South Africa's elections, have begun training as police reservists.

They were drawn from ANC-aligned "Self-Defence Units" (SDUs) and their former foes in militias loyal to the Inkatha Freedom Party, regional government spokesman Ronnie Mamooepa said Tuesday.

"This will significantly help restore law and order, reduce the culture of violence in the area and bring about peace," he said.

The Regional Safety and Security Ministry said the 500, mostly from the volatile East Rand, would undergo about six months' training before returning to police townships torn apart by decades of apartheid rule. Mr. Mamooepa told Reuters.

Police sources said one group of ANC-aligned SDU members began training Monday and a 50-strong group was expected to start Wednesday.

South Africa's former white rulers accused the militias of fomenting a wave of crime and violence in black townships, particularly those east of Johannesburg.

Various political parties, including the African National Congress (ANC), formed militias in Johannesburg townships, saying police had failed to protect black communities which traditionally saw security forces as apartheid's enforcer.

But the commercial capital's East Rand townships became battlefields during the run-up to the country's first all-race polls, when the SDUs declared war on Zulu-speaking hostel dwellers who formed their own units.

There are several thousand militiamen in the three flashpoint eastern townships of Vosloorus, Tokoza and Katlehong, which were among the most violent in the country in the countdown to the April elections won by the

Bosnian Serb shelling prompts BiH evacuation

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. officers said Tuesday a Serb assault in a northwest Bosnian enclave had forced the Muslim-led Bosnian army to evacuate civilians living near a volatile front line.

Bosnian Serbs pounded Muslim-led troops with hundreds of shells in the Bihać enclave over the past 24 hours, with the heaviest attacks reported near Otoka, northwest of Bihać town, a U.N. military spokesman said in Sarajevo.

Serb forces had fired most of the 900 artillery and mortar rounds recorded by the United Nations Monday in some of the worst fighting the country has seen in weeks.

U.N. Commander Eric Chaperon said.

French peacekeepers reported the Bosnian army Fifth Corps had held its ground but had evacuated the civilian population from Otoka, with the exception of old people and soldiers, Maj. Chaperon said.

"Otoka is not far away from the confrontation line and I suppose the Fifth Corps fears for the life of its population," Maj. Chaperon told reporters.

The Muslim enclave, a U.N.-declared safe area, came under assault last week as Bosnian Serbs attacked from the east and Croatian Serb tanks crossed the Bosnian border to the north.

But Croatian Serb forces apparently have withdrawn from front lines in the Bihać pocket sometime over the past few days, Paul Risley, a U.N. spokesman in Zagreb said.

However, Croatian Serb forces from the breakaway Krajina region continued to fire artillery at Muslim positions from across the border and Krajina Serb troops



The Royal Navy's new Sea Harrier FA 2 Sarajevo in support of the United Nations operations (AFP photo)

operating from HMS Invincible is seen over the Muslim-held part of Bosnia.

In Geneva, major powers seeking to force the Bosnian Serbs to agree to their peace plan met Tuesday to discuss sending international observers to verify rump Yugoslavia's blockade of its former proteges.

Deployment of around 130 observers along the border between Serbian-led Yugoslavia and the Serb-held part of Bosnia would pave the way for a gradual lifting of sanctions on Belgrade.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, anxious to win the lifting of sanctions that have crippled his country's economy, closed the border with the Bosnian Serbs last month after they refused to accept big powers' peace plan.

European Union mediator Lord Owen will join officials from the United States, Russia, Germany, Britain, and France — the international "contact group" on Bosnia — for the one-day talks in

Geneva, U.N. and diplomatic sources said.

EU foreign ministers Sunday hacked the contact group's plan to offer an easing of sanctions against Belgrade in return for agreement to post observers along the Bosnian border.

The observers would try to verify that only humanitarian aid and not arms were reaching the Serbs, whom the contact group is trying to isolate for their refusal of the peace plan dividing Bosnia roughly evenly between Serbs and their Muslim-Croat enemies.

Serbs halted artillery fire on the Muslim-held Bihać at the weekend after the United Nations warned they risked NATO air attack if they persisted in shelling Bihać, located in the heart of a U.N.-declared "safe area."

U.N. officials are still mulling whether to declare part of Bihać a heavy weapons exclusion zone as they did around Sarajevo and Gorazde earlier this year.

Designed to protect civil-

lians from Serb shelling, those zones forced both warring parties to withdraw their tanks, artillery and large calibre guns or risk NATO air strikes.

U.N. sources in Sarajevo said peacekeeping officials were concerned that fighting in Bihać had worsened at the same time that pressure was growing in the United States for lifting the arms embargo on the Muslim-led army.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has said he will seek an end to the embargo, perhaps lifting it unilaterally, if Bosnia's Serbs refuse to accept the peace plan by Oct. 15.

Britain warned Monday it would withdraw its 3,000 peacekeeping troops if the arms ban were lifted, saying such a move would reignite the war and endanger British U.N. soldiers.

The U.N. Protection Force Tuesday released the names of three British soldiers killed when their armoured personnel carrier veered off a road and plunged into a ravine.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Director General:
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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the

Jordan Times advertising department.



M. KAHIL

The U.N. needs a standing force, and Gurkhas could do the job

By Brian Farrell and Christopher Lingle

SINGAPORE — Since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the cold war, military forces wearing the blue berets of the United Nations have increasingly been called upon to intervene in trouble spots around the world. The seemingly endless series of crises from Haiti to Bosnia-Herzegovina pose a serious challenge for the only body with a mandate to carry out the will of the global community.

While there is no shortage of goodwill or strong words in reaction to conflict in places such as Rwanda, too often international action is too little or too late. Without a swift and decisive response from the outside, a crisis arising from a breakdown of civil authority can easily lead to humanitarian catastrophe. Inaction by the world community amounts to appeasement, even though it may be unintentional.

The problem stems from the lack of a standing military force under U.N. command. A solution would be to put together a contingent of Gurkha professional soldiers from Nepal who are particularly well-suited for

such missions.

Boutros Ghali, the U.N. secretary-general, is trying to improve the ability of the world body to react to crises that do not require commitment of massive forces or involve acute geopolitical complications. In April 1993, he established a planning team made up of seven military officers seconded from their national armed forces. Their mandate is to plan and organise a U.N. standby force base on troop contributions by member states.

Twenty-one countries are reported to have committed soldiers and/or equipment to the reserve force and more may follow. The aim is to get an accurate idea of the units that could be brought together in rapid response to a crisis.

However, the plan is seriously flawed. It does not deal with the basic question of whether the force will be able to assemble and move to wherever it is needed quickly enough. Nor does it take account of the slow way in which governments involved reach agreement on the actual deployment of the U.N. forces or what to do if some of the promised national troops are ultimately withheld. Most importantly, the United Na-

tions must be confident that the troops provided will be good enough to do the job and able to work well with each other.

Instead of trying to assemble a multinational rapid response contingent, the United Nations should have a standing force trained, armed, equipped and ready to go. The ground forces of a major power should not be involved, because that raises too many political hackles in too many places, producing disruptive consequences for any peace making or peacekeeping effort.

The Gurkhas are ideally suited to take on an emergency reaction role. They are superb professional soldiers long accustomed to service for an authority other than the leaders of their homeland. Since 1816, Gurkhas have served with great distinction in the British and later Indian armies, and they continue to do so. At present, most British Gurkhas are based in Hong Kong and the sultanate of Brunei. With the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997, the Gurkhas will no longer be required in the British army.

The legal and diplomatic arrangements under which

individual Nepalese serve the British and Indian governments could easily be replicated for the United Nations. A minimum of 5,000 troops would be needed for the force to be credible and to give it the flexibility to answer more than one call at a time. Garrisoning costs and logistics would probably limit the number of troops to a maximum of 15,000.

Based on past experience, it is unlikely that Nepal would try to interfere in the U.N. chain of command for Gurkha troops or demand the evacuation of the force in the face of mounting casualties. The presence of Nepalese soldiers would also be unlikely to provoke antagonistic reactions based on nationality. Indeed, the formidable reputation of Gurkhas as impartial fighters might well help to defuse tense situations.

Nonetheless, such a proposal raises challenges that many governments are reluctant to confront. If a Gurkha force is assembled and used, the United Nations would be taking a large step towards acting as an independent, supranational body. The force could only be used if the major powers on the U.N. Security Coun-

cil supported its intervention. And only the United States is capable of providing the airlift force would need to reach trouble spots and operate there as long as necessary.

Once its jobs were done, the United Nations would almost certainly have to take control of the territory in question for an indeterminate time. This raises fundamental questions about the role of the United Nations in building a new world order.

It is time these questions were confronted. Improved multinational military contingents are simply too slow to assemble and pose too many political and operational problems. A viable alternative must be found. Pragmatism must be allowed to outweigh cynical objections that Western governments seek the political benefits of putting Gurkhas at risk in chaotic situations in place of their own soldiers.

Mr. Farrell is a military historian and Mr. Lingle an economist teaching at the National University of Singapore. They contributed this personal comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Yemen faces painful economic surgery

This is the fourth and last of a series of articles on the impressions that the writer got during a recent 10-day stay in the Republic of Yemen.

By P.V. Vivekanand

LATEST MODELS of gleaming Mercedes and BMW cars rub shoulders with battered, threadbare, windowless — and often doorless — Japanese minivans plying the streets of Sanaa, underlining the yawning gap between the rich and poor in the country.

A 10-kilometre ride in one of those crammed six-seater minivans costs five riyals — nearly half a dollar at the official exchange rate, but less than one tenth of that in the black market. The seemingly ridiculous fare reflects another paradox in the country — gasoline prices in Yemen are the cheapest in the world at six riyals per litre.

The government has been trying to hike oil prices to a more realistic level in the past four years, but the political fallout of such a move appears to have held it back. The situation could change in post-civil war Yemen, where a new technocrat government is expected to be named soon.

But any increase in gasoline prices cannot come on its own; it has to be accompanied by an increase in earning in real terms for the Yemeni people. Unless that happens, there would be trouble, diplomats warn.

"People would react violently," said a Western diplomat in Sanaa. "For

now, they are happy with the low prices for gasoline which in turn cost them very little for transportation, not to mention the tens of thousands who make a living out of driving taxis. Any dramatic change in the situation without an equitable rise in earning could spell problems."

The shops of Sanaa, stocked to the ceiling with the most up-to-date electronic goods from Japan and designer clothes from France, often remind a visitor of the souqs of Dubai. Strangely, prices in Yemen, which maintains a moderate level of customs duties on imported goods, are mostly cheaper than in Dubai. Traders say it is a result of the fluctuating exchange of the rial. The pre-war rate was 42 to the dollar. Today, it is in the range of 80 to 85. The government rate, applicable only to foreign visitors settling roomrent at five-star hotels, remains unchanged at 12 to the greenback.

One of the priorities of the new government, when it is formed after constitutional amendments and political horse-trading, will be to streamline the economy, says Planning Minister Abdul Karim Iryani, who himself describes the official currency exchange rate as fictitious and gasoline prices as ridiculous.

"The pricing policy as a whole for the petroleum products, in my view, is one of the very big economic mistakes that was manipulated by the former YSP (Yemeni Socialist Party) prime minister," Dr. Iryani said. "This is one of the biggest issues that have to be addressed because the

benefits of petroleum can only be felt by the society in terms of social and economic development when the consumer pays the international price."

Similarly, the government would also move to reduce food subsidies, which cost the treasury an annual \$400 million. That again could spark popular protests.

However, according to Dr. Iryani, these moves, which will come as part of an economic restructuring programme to be agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), would be balanced in such a way that the poor would not suffer. He declined to spell out the specific measures, but indicated that stabilising the rial is one of the means that could herald stable prices in the market.

"We developed last year our own vision of economic reforms in budgetary, monetary and financial affairs, liberalisation of trade, (and) the removal of subsidies, whether for petroleum products or flour and wheat — these are the three elements that cost the government tremendously," he said.

Eliminating budgetary deficits parallel to foreign assistance for currency stabilisation is an integral part of the programme. "Had it not been for the former prime minister, the programme would have been under way for at least eight months now and we would have been on the road to economic reform," said Dr. Iryani.

The minister said the government was preparing a fiscal budget for 1994, its first in three years, and

would present it along with a revised economic restructuring programme to the IMF and World Bank.

He conceded that the results of the two-month civil war had brought immense new pressures and realities that the government had to take into consideration. But, there is no way out of the programme if Yemen were to hope to stand on its feet and address its foreign debts of nearly \$8 billion — "the luggage of socialism that we inherited."

According to Dr. Iryani, "the biggest share of Yemen's foreign debts was brought in by South Yemen," when the Marxist South and conservative North merged in 1990. About 70 per cent of united Yemen's total debts are owed to Russia, which inherited the former Soviet Union, which used to be the staunchest ally of South Yemen.

"More than 60 per cent of that debt were accumulated by the former South Yemen," said Dr. Iryani, adding that "practically all" the dues were military debts.

The per capita income in Yemen is estimated at less than \$500 (no definite figures are available in the absence of a fiscal budget or accounts in the last two years), another irony in a country which produces up to 350,000 barrels of oil per day.

"Yemenis will have to take the bitter medicine and make sacrifices to address their situation," said the Western diplomat. "The more the government prolongs the economic programme the tougher it would get."

According to the diplomat and other sources, Yemen is burdened with an oversized civil service whose productivity is negligible. "The government will have to scale it down," said the diplomat. "Ministers and senior officials openly admit that there is a major inefficiency problem in civil service."

Dr. Iryani put it differently. "The political instability has created huge expenditures that were not properly balanced. Now, hopefully, that balance will be restored."

"But the current expenditures, salaries and allowances, have become so exaggerated in the past two years that it has created tremendous burdens."

The country would have fared much better had it not been for the return of nearly one million expatriates from Saudi Arabia in the wake of the 1990 Gulf crisis triggered by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This deprived the country of much-needed expatriate remittances estimated at nearly \$2.5 billion every year and brought new pressures on the government in terms of infrastructure and services needs.

It also swelled the ranks of the unemployed. Many Yemenis are philosophic about their problems. "We lose some, we gain some," said Wa'dh Othman, a grocer in Sanaa. "We Yemenis have survived centuries in the worst of conditions and we can and will survive the present problems."

"Come back to Yemen in five years and see me," he said. "It will be a different story altogether."

Qadhafi awaits judgement day

By Abdelaziz Barrouhi
Reuters

TRIPOLI — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, seeing oo and in sight to Lockerbie sanctions crippling his country, talks more and more about a showdown with the West.

At ceremonies last week marking the 25th anniversary of the military coup that brought him to power in 1969, as well as in recent speeches, the flamboyant colonel has said a solution to the Lockerbie standoff can await "the day of last judgement."

Colonel Qadhafi refuses to turn over for trial in the United States or Britain two Libyans suspected of planning the bombing of the Pan Am 747 Jumbo jet which blew up over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988, killing 270 people.

For his refusal, the United Nations has slapped arms, trade and travel embargoes on Libya and holds out the possibility of an eventual embargo on oil, Libya's economic lifeline.

Col. Qadhafi says handing over the suspects is impossible, even in the event of an oil embargo.

Tripoli-based diplomats say he appears to have set up a long-term strategy to prepare himself for what he calls "the inevitable confrontation with the West."

Col. Qadhafi is seen as having devised a three-pronged strategy on the military, political and financial fronts.

Realising that money is essential to wage war, he has assumed full control of the country's finances, diplomats said.

Since the West froze Libyan assets last year, Libya has deposited some \$6 billion in safe areas outside Western banks and continues to earn \$6 billion to \$8 billion a year, almost all of it from oil.

"Qadhafi has become Libya's superintendent for finances and no cheque over \$5,000 can be paid by the central bank without his green light," one diplomat said.

On the military side, Col. Qadhafi is seen as relying on newly formed and trained Sahara units able to move easily in the desert, diplomats said.

He has ordered construction of a defence system consisting of thousands of trenches on the central coastline along the Gulf of Sirte, travellers said.

Diplomats said they believe that Libya's regular army, for which Col. Qadhafi spent more than \$20 billion on mainly Soviet-made armaments over the past 20 years, has had its capabilities largely reduced by the arms embargo imposed since 1992. Its strength also has been sapped by Col. Qadhafi's decision to replace the army by what he calls the "armed people."

Diplomats say that on the political front, Col. Qadhafi has been tightening his grip on power by establishing direct control of revolutionary committees and of tribal leadership.

Dissent has been categorised as treason, punishable by death, Col. Qadhafi recently said.

He also issued new laws apparently aimed at punishing the drinking of alcohol or attempting to undermine Muslim values. Diplomats and lawyers say they are likely to be used as tools by the revolutionary committees against would-be dissidents.

Col. Qadhafi has set up several so-called "purification committees" to which all those working for public services and the army must report their earnings and sources of revenues.

Foreign embassies have received letters from the government asking them to list the houses they rent and give details on Libyan landlords and the amounts paid to them.

Denunciation has been legalised and a new law says Libyans must report to police any activity threatening to the regime.

Diplomats said Col. Qadhafi may also give himself a new weapon in his confrontation with the West by trying to destabilise North African countries.

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Artist gives
FILMS
PLAY
EXHIBITION

Cabinet approves cooperation agreement with Malaysia

'Projects to benefit both countries in agriculture, energy, science, technology and industry'

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday approved a general agreement on cooperation with Malaysia in economic, technical, scientific and cultural fields which will be signed in Amman during a visit to Jordan by the Malaysian prime minister early next month.

The Cabinet authorised Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to sign the agreement on behalf of the government.

The agreement is designed to encourage the implementation of development projects to benefit both countries in agriculture, energy, science, technology and industry and promote religious activities and publications on the history, traditions, customs and culture of the two countries.

The Council of Ministers gave its consent to the exchange of memoranda between Jordan and Japan concerning a \$5 million grant from the Japanese government to Jordan in the form of agricultural machinery and fertilisers.

The grant agreement, which is to be signed by Minister of Planning Hisham Khathir, stipulates that the agricultural materials should be bought from Japan or any other country by mutual agreement.

Apart from buying the materials, the grant will also cover the cost of transporting them to Aqaba.

The Cabinet also approved of an extension to the school lunch programme sponsored by the World Food Program-

me (WFP) for another three years.

The project entails providing meals to school students in the rural regions to improve their health status and adults at the adult and literary education centres as well as vocational training centres for women run by the social development centres in the country.

Also Tuesday, the Cabinet decided to despatch a technical team from the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) to Turkey on Sept. 28 on a 10-day visit to inspect water projects in Ankara and other projects that are similar in nature in order to benefit from the Turkish experience in the course of restructuring the water network in Amman, a project funded by the

German Development Bank. WAJ Director General Qusai Qteishat will lead the team on the visit to Turkey.

The cabinet also formed Jordan's delegation to Brussels to conduct negotiations on a Jordanian-Belgian air transport agreement. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Ahmad Jweiber will lead the delegation.

Mr. Jweiber was authorised by the government also to sign a memorandum on air transport between Jordan and Japan.

The government also gave its consent to hosting a meeting in Jordan by the Arab Railway Federation. The meeting is to be held in Amman in October 1995.

TCC chief to retain position

Home Country Direct service introduced

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Director General of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Ahmed Nawawi will retain his job at the head of Jordan's highly profitable telecommunications monopoly in what appears as a reversal of his resignation that was accepted by the Cabinet over two weeks ago, informed sources said Tuesday.

Mr. Nawawi was still performing his duties at the corporation Tuesday, the day when his resignation was supposed to have gone into effect. The sources did not elaborate on the reasons behind Mr. Nawawi's reversal of his decision to resign.

Mr. Nawawi's resignation had come two days after he gave a controversial interview in which he

announced the cancellation of a contract that gave a local company a 15-year monopoly for the provision of paging services.

In the interview, published in Al Ra'i newspaper, Mr. Nawawi also defended a decision to award a contract for the provision of cellular phone service to a local group that would introduce the service in cooperation with the U.S. company Motorola. The contract caused controversy because Motorola is on the list of companies banned from doing business in the Kingdom under the Arab boycott of Israel, although the tender specified that bids for the contract by companies on the boycott list would not be considered.

Meanwhile, the TCC announced Tuesday the introduction of what is called the Home Country Direct



Ahmed Nawawi

(HCD) service which allows callers to charge international calls to the receiving parties upon their approval or to their credit cards.

Foreign businesspersons and tourists as well as Jordanians travelling to the countries in which the service is provided will be able

to use the service by dialing access numbers. Jordanian businesspersons travelling abroad will be able to charge the calls to their local numbers.

The service is available in the United Kingdom, the U.S. and Australia, and TCC sources said it will soon be expanded to include other countries. They said the service will be similar to collect calls which are not available in Jordan. They said the collect call service was cancelled because the TCC could not obtain fees on calls charged to overseas numbers which could not be traced.

A TCC official said it is unlikely that the collect service will be available to citizens in the near future.

The access codes for the countries connected to the service are: 18 800 703, the U.K.; 18 800 002, the United States 18 800 000, Australia.

Defendants continue to disrupt State Security Court trial

AMMAN (AP) — Defendants on trial for subversion Tuesday disrupted proceedings and forced an adjournment after refusing the testimony of an intelligence agent and spitting at him.

Colonel Hafez Amin, who is presiding over the three-man State Security Court, ordered five of the 22 defendants out of the courtroom and adjourned the trial until Wednesday.

It was the second time in the 17-day trial that the defendants disrupted court proceedings by shouting slogans and refusing testimony in violation of the court's code of behaviour.

On Sunday, the defendants also forced an adjournment after publicly withdrawing

testimonies given during pre-trial interrogation.

Tuesday's clamour began when one of the defendants refused the testimony of an intelligence agent and started shouting "Allahu Akbar" as the officer testified to having seized explosives from the homes of the suspects.

Other defendants joined in the uproar and one of them spit in the face of the officer.

The defendants, who cannot be identified under court regulations, are known as "Arab Afghans." They are former volunteers in the 1980-90 Afghan resistance against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Three others are at large and are being tried in absentia.

All 25 men face the death

penalty for allegedly carrying out a series of explosions and attempted bombings targeting movie theaters, supermarkets selling alcohol and liquor stores in 1993 and early this year.

Prosecutors say the group aimed at cleansing Jordan's conservative Muslim society of what it regards as Western influences that contravene Islamic teachings.

Prosecution witnesses, including explosives experts, earlier testified that the bombs that went off in movie theatres showing pornographic films in Amman and other cities contained material similar to that found at the homes of the defendants.

The defendants have pleaded innocent to the accusations, which include plotting to sabotage the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process by assassinating Jordanian and Palestinian peace negotiators and by attacking American and Israeli interests in the region.

During Tuesday's session, three security officers, including the intelligence officer, told the court that they confiscated machine-guns, explosives and bomb components from the defendants, who were arrested Feb. 8. The confiscated material was presented in court.

The uproar broke out as the third witness was testifying.

Salt restaurant owner under arrest

Nearly all food poisoning patients out of hospital

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Following a food poisoning incident last week in Salt involving about 200 people, a restaurant owner has been arrested and one of the employees was found to be infected with salmonella bacteria.

Health Minister Aref Bataineh, who visited the Salt hospital Tuesday, told the Jordan Times that laboratory tests on the restaurant's employees found one worker was infected with the salmonella bacteria which he could have passed

on while handling food. Improper hygiene is often blamed for the transmission of such bacteria, said the minister.

The owner of the restaurant who had been operating without licence has been arrested and is awaiting trial; the Barkat restaurant has been closed, said the minister.

He said that the restaurant owner had leased the establishment to a group of non-Jordanian workers, one of whom was found to be infected with the bacteria.

Meanwhile, the drinking water in the Salt area was

found to be potable and free of any contamination.

Director of the Health Department at Balqa Governorate Samir Awamleh said laboratory tests on Salt's drinking water have proved that water was not the cause of the salmonellosis suffered by patrons of the Barkat restaurant last Thursday.

In a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Awamleh said that laboratory tests conducted regularly on water samples taken from different springs and water tanks as well as the water

network in the city of Salt have proved that all water resources there are safe.

All the patients who were being treated at Al Hussein Hospital for salmonellosis have been discharged, except for five children.

Hospital sources told the Jordan Times that all five children were expected to be discharged by Wednesday.

The children are all in stable condition though they were still suffering from mild diarrhoea, but they will no doubt be discharged Wednesday, said the sources.

Artist gives freshness to a time-worn theme

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Brochures for a current exhibition of works by Syrian artist Walid Karisli, 50, make no mention that the artist is physically disabled. To do so would be an injustice to the masterful work of this accomplished artist, which stands on its own without the need for any resort to melodrama.

Indeed, the paintings at Baladna Gallery make it bluntly clear to the viewer that despite severe paralysis, Mr. Karisli is leading a fuller life than many of us.

"There was grief after the accident at first, but now there is no sense of loss," says Imad Sabri, a friend of the artist who came to Jordan to help oversee the exhibition.

Predominant throughout the paintings chosen for the exhibit are the narrow streets of the old neighbourhoods of Mr. Karisli's native Damascus.

The subject has been used by painters many times before, but Mr. Karisli's unique style gives freshness to the time-worn theme, blending a gritty realism with twilight shadows and shades of colour.

Mounted on the wall in a tucked-away corner are paintings which play with dimension and perspective.

Domes and rooftops curve, swell and bulge beneath the gaze of the observer, who is placed by the artist in a bird's-eye view from above.

Mr. Karisli had been a student of electrical engineering at the Soviet Leningrad Academy before a swimming accident robbed him of the use of both legs and partially crippled one arm, Mr. Sabri said.

"Before the accident, he



A painting by Walid Karisli.

was already an accomplished amateur painter," said Mr. Sabri. "He was taught by his mother Iqbal, herself an artist."

The accident caused Mr. Karisli to end his pursuit of a career as an electronics engineer and become a full-time artist, said Mr. Sabri.

"My friend may be crippled physically, but there is no impairment of his thoughts or his emotions," he remarked in a burst of deep

felt pride.

The exhibition, which opened at the Baladna Art Gallery on Monday, will continue until Sept. 22.

'Contractors' group requests government help on problems'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) Tuesday urged the government to refrain from awarding public construction tenders to non-registered contractors and requested help in solving the association's problems with the Ministry of Education.

JCA President Mohammad Murad made the request at a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and association board members.

The prime minister listened to a briefing on the contractors' operations and the situation in the construction sector as well as the problems it was facing.

Mr. Murad said Jordan has 700 registered contracting firms operating with a total capital of nearly

JD400 million, but undertaking annual contracting business estimated at nearly JD1 billion.

Mr. Murad told the Jordan Times later that the JCA demanded that the government uphold article VIII of the association law which stipulates that all government tenders should be awarded to registered and qualified contractors and that the local qualified contractors were willing to carry out government-funded construction projects which should all be referred to them rather than foreign contractors.

Asked about the difficulties which the local contractors were facing, Mr. Murad said that Jordanian contractors were often encountering problems with Ministry of Education projects because the ministry was not living up to the contracts and not honour-

ing its commitments.

He said the JCA has requested that the Ministry of Public Works and Housing take over the responsibilities of the Ministry of Education's construction projects.

The prime minister has promised to look into the matter and pledged the government's total adherence to the laws and regulations concerning the fulfilment of contracts, said Mr. Murad.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Dr. Majali requesting the JCA to submit their cases to the concerned ministries, with specific details about disputed cases so that prompt measures can be taken.

Petra said the prime minister requested the JCA board to bring to his attention any outstanding cases related to any government department.

Experts call for land use laws

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day seminar on a soil mapping and land use project was concluded in Amman Tuesday, with the participants urging the government to pass land use laws to protect the soil.

A statement summing up the deliberations recommended that the government introduce soil management in its agricultural extension ser-

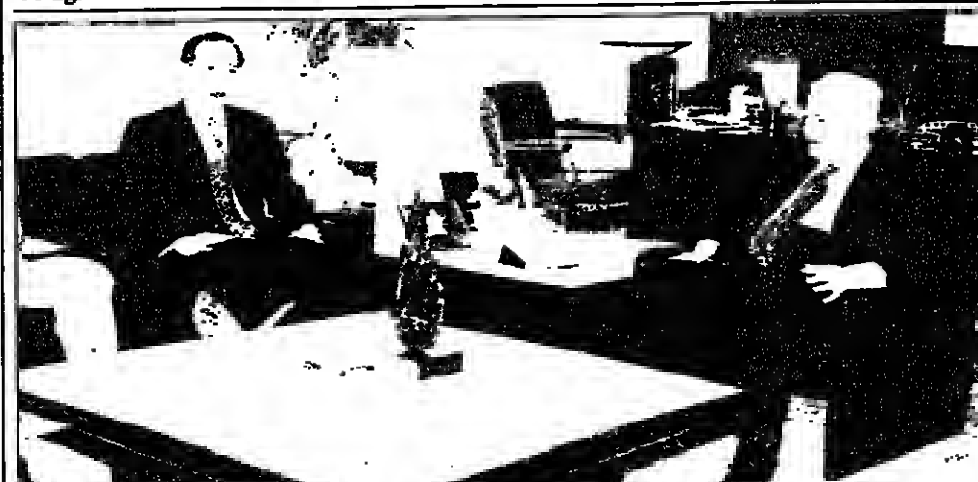
vices and that studies on salinity and fertility of the soil be adopted from the school level.

The participants also recommended that a soil handbook currently used in Jordan be streamlined similarly to those used in the rest of the Arab World in order to unify terms used in this field.

The soil mapping project is being implemented under a

contract signed between the European Union and the Jordanian government in 1989. The contract, which ends in April 1995, is financed by a grant from the European Union.

The project is implemented by the Soil Survey Section of the Department of Afforestation and Forests, assisted by British consultants Hunting Technical Services.



A GIFT TO HELP: Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)-Jordan, Abdul Majid Shoman Tuesday meets with Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda after signing a \$22,308 agreement to finance the purchase of an X-ray unit to be used in the MAP-run health centre at Hittin camp in the eastern outskirts of Amman. The health centre includes four clinics: general health, dental, gynaecology and children's. The signing ceremony took place at the Arab Bank headquarters.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

★ Chinese film entitled "The Bewitched Flying Mouse" (with subtitles in English) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

PLAY

★ Children's play in Arabic entitled "The Festival" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Rashad Salim at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Syrian artist Walid Qarsli at Baladna (Tel. 657506).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Yousef Al Baddawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of Chinese paintings and handicrafts at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artists Sa'd Al Ta'i, Talal Issa and Mahdi Al Assadi at Al 'Ain Art Gallery (Tel. 644451).

★ "The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.

★ Exhibition entitled "Time-2 Space 1" by Samia Zarou at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

Financial Markets

Currency	New York Close 12/14/94	Tokyo Close 12/15/94
Sterling Pound	1.5705	1.5777
Deutsche Mark	1.5654	1.5436
Swiss Franc	1.2667	1.2665
French Franc	5.2645	5.2605**
Japanese Yen	99.15	99.03
European Currency Unit	1.2350	1.2360**

1ND 100 NTN
European Opening 10:00 a.m. 1:45

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.62	4.81	5.18	5.66
Sterling Pound	5.43	5.68	6.06	6.93
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.93	5.31
Swiss Franc	5.75	5.37	4.12	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.43	5.68	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.37	2.12	2.25	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.62	5.81	6.13	6.62

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Aid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.0887	1.0941
Deutsche Mark	0.4502	0.4525
Swiss Franc	0.5401	0.5428
French Franc	0.1315	0.1322
Japanese Yen	0.7015	0.7050
Dutch Guilder	0.2015	0.2035
Swedish Krona	0.0444	0.0446
Italian Lira	0.0444	0.0446
Belgian Franc	0.0444	0.0446

Currency	Aid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.5270	1.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.040875	0.041025
Saudi Riyal	0.15505	0.15600
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5150	2.3460
Qatari Riyal	0.1597	0.1609
Egyptian Pound	0.0000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7860	1.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.2785	0.3165
Cypriot Pound	1.3925	1.4985

Borden accepts \$2b merger bid from KKR/ RJR

NEW YORK (R) — In a \$2 billion-deal, dairy and pasta giant Borden said Monday it will be acquired by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts (KKR), marking the biggest acquisition by the leveraged buyout firm since it bought RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp.

Under the proposed buyout, Borden will become a private company headed by its senior managers. Kohlberg Kravis will use its stock in RJR Nabisco to pay for the deal, reducing its ownership

majority control of the tobacco and consumer products giant to \$2 billion. It bought RJR Nabisco for \$25 billion five years ago.

Borden has been struggling with weak earnings. In January, it launched a restructuring aimed at selling off weak units and turning its profits around, but with mixed results.

KKR said it expects a definitive merger agreement to be executed within two weeks.

It said the exchange is subject to certain limitations on the number of shares to be issued. It said the purchase price represents a premium of 22.6 per cent over the closing market price of Borden's common stock on Sept. 9, when it closed at \$11.625 on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

RJR stock, which closed Friday at \$7, also on the NYSE, was not trading early Monday after the announcement.

The final number of RJR shares issued for Borden stock will be determined by a pricing mechanism to be agreed on by RJR and KKR.

Beijing claims foreign firms defrauded \$10b

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese government has accused foreign enterprises of having "stolen" close to \$10 billion overvaluing assets when setting up joint ventures, an official newspaper said.

By overvaluing the value of assets contributed to the joint venture, the foreign partner illegally pockets a higher share of a venture's profits split according to each side's initial investment, said the Business Weekly.

The China Daily's business supplement quoted officials

from the State Administration for Inspection of Import and Export Commodities (SAIEC) in a report likely to affect the setting up of future joint ventures.

"Such illegal activities committed by some foreign investors not only undermine the assets of their joint ventures in China, but also hurt the interests of their Chinese partners," the weekly quoted an unidentified SAIEC official as saying.

Since 1991, the SAIEC has investigated 4,000 cases of fraud, mainly the overvaluing

of equipment contributed by foreign investors, said the official.

The investigations assessed equipment with a stated value of \$1.3 billion as actually being worth \$900 million, and helped Chinese firms recoup \$400 million in compensation, the newspaper said.

The newspaper did not explain or give details on the much larger figure of \$10 billion alleged to have been stolen by foreign investors.

China now has 47,000 joint ventures, and the government's new charge of massive fraud by foreign partners is likely to affect present and potential investors.

During the first six months of the year, China approved more than 2,500 foreign-funded projects valued at \$44 billion.

Meanwhile, a Chinese

treasury official has said that tax reforms have not affected the bulk of foreign firms operating in China this year.

Chen Lianbo, tax department director for foreigners, dismissed reports published abroad that the tax reforms which came into effect in China at the start of 1994 had led to sharp cost increases. He called them a "groundless distortion of facts."

Mr. Chen told the English-language China Daily that the 30 per cent increase in taxes received by the state from foreign companies for the first seven months of this year was due to the country's strong industrial growth.

"The reform has actually reduced their turnover tax burden," said Mr. Chen. One third paid less tax, one third paid the same amount as last year and another third paid more.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3553/63	Canadian dollar	1.5428/38
	1.7304/14	Deutsche marks	1.2870/80
	1.2870/80	Dutch guilders	32.24/28
	32.24/28	Swiss francs	5.2787/37
	5.2787/37	Belgian francs	1565.3/6.8
	1565.3/6.8	French francs	99.02/12
	99.02/12	Italian lire	7.4793/93
	7.4793/93	Japanese yen	7.7270/70
	7.7270/70	Swedish crowns	6.0900/50
	6.0900/50	Norwegian crowns	\$1.5670/80
One sterling	\$1.5670/80	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	\$390.40/390.90		

Oman steps up investment drive to offset low oil prices

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf state of Oman is stepping up a drive to attract investment as part of sweeping reforms aimed at fortifying its economy against volatile oil prices, bankers said Monday.

A year after it introduced selective income taxes, the government has modified its corporate laws to make investment more attractive for foreign businessmen seeking to tap the country's abundant energy and cheap labour.

The new laws give priority to holding companies, which usually have a large capital and are entitled to set up other firms in various fields.

Such companies also have numerous shareholders and this will enable Oman to broaden the base of local and foreign investors.

"The new laws will take effect in early October and they are part of a comprehensive overhaul of the legal investment and taxation framework in the country," an Omani bank manager told AFP by telephone from Muscat.

"The laws will largely facilitate the establishment of investment companies, mainly holding firms, as they remove red tape, provide guarantees for investors and give a clearer picture of the economic regulations," he said.

Bankers did not give details of the laws but said they mainly cover incentives for investors, shorten the period needed for approval of a project and limit decision-making bodies to a single authority.

Foreigners could have up to 49 per cent stake in any venture to be set up under the new laws, according to the bankers.

The endorsement of such laws early this year has already produced results, with a new holding company being established with an initial capital of five million

Omani riyals (\$13 million). Subscribers to Al Anwar Investment company include six local firms, with 60 per cent, as well as national and foreign individual investors.

In a report from Muscat, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) semi-official daily Al Itihad said more holding companies would be set up after the enforcement of the new corporate laws on Oct. 3.

Oman imposed taxes on profits of local and foreign firms last year but exempted ventures which are involved in certain industrial fields. Officials have said the exemptions are designed to encourage productive projects.

Oman, which is not an OPEC member, produces around 800,000 barrels per day of oil and weak crude prices forced it to slash spending by around 10 per cent in 1994 to cut a budget deficit.

Officials have stressed there would be no going back on economic reforms, which cover privatisation, relaxing investment rules and opening the stock exchange for foreigners, and freeing interest rates.

The government has already sold five key institutions to the public and is planning billion dollar projects with the participation of the private sector.

The reforms have given birth to a \$78 million joint venture with the UAE and a \$50 million fund with a 49 per cent British equity, the first of its kind in the sultanate. Two other similar funds have been approved and would involve several Japanese subscribers.

Official figures showed the reforms, the largest in the oil-rich Gulf, has boosted Oman's non-oil sectors, with their gross domestic product surging by 12 per cent in 1992 and nine per cent in 1993.

"Providing a sound legal and organisational framework is essential for encouraging the private sector and foreign investors," Omani Commerce Minister Makbul bin Ali Sultan, told Al Itihad. "Any flaw in such a framework will obstruct economic activities and investment."

Japanese bank lending suffers unprecedented third decline

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese bank lending suffered an unprecedented third consecutive monthly decline in August with total advances by all banks shrinking 0.3 per cent from a year earlier, the Bank of Japan has said.

Lending contracted for the first time ever in June with a decline of 0.2 per cent from a year earlier followed by a contraction of 0.4 per cent in June.

A central bank official said lending was expected to keep shrinking as corporate demand for funds was likely to remain stagnant for the time being.

"There may be the possibility of a further widening of the rate of decline of bank lending as banks say corporate demand is unlikely to bottom out until well after the year to March," the official said.

The flat corporate demand for loans reflects the continued reluctance of Japanese companies to increase capital spending.

"Companies are also trying to pay off debts as part of their balance sheet restructuring," the official added.

The central bank said advances by city banks — accounting for almost half the total — contracted by a smaller margin in August, as did lending by long-term credit banks. But lending by trust banks suffered a sharper decline.

Japan's 11 city banks saw lending shrink by 0.5 per cent following a decline of 0.6 per cent in July. Advances by the nation's three long-term credit banks contracted 0.4 per cent after the previous 1.3 per cent fall. Lending by the seven trust banks plunged 3.6 per cent following a 3.4 per cent decline.

The central bank added that growth in lending by the first-tier regional banks was 1.1 per cent, the same rate as July. But growth in advances by second-tier regional banks accelerated to 1.7 per cent.

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Drugs problem looms large for swimming

ROME (AP) — A world championship that had 10 world records has left the sport of swimming in a daze. With the spectre of doping looming large again, the sport doesn't know whether to celebrate or hide in shame.

"I have never before seen a situation where, if you win, you are tarred with doing something crooked," said Australian coach Don Talbot. "If (drug-cheating) is allowed to keep going, then we are not going to have a sport."

Describing performance-enhancing drugs as "the single greatest threat to the progress and integrity of the sport," 18 coaches signed a declaration calling on swimming's governing body, FINA, to act now to clean up the sport.

Although the coaches didn't mention China by name, most of the doping accusations have been pointed at China's women swimmers, who won 12 of the 16 events and broke five world records at the championships which ended Sunday.

Dennis Pursley, national swimming director of the United States team, was one of the 18 who called on FINA to bring in 24-hour notice testing.

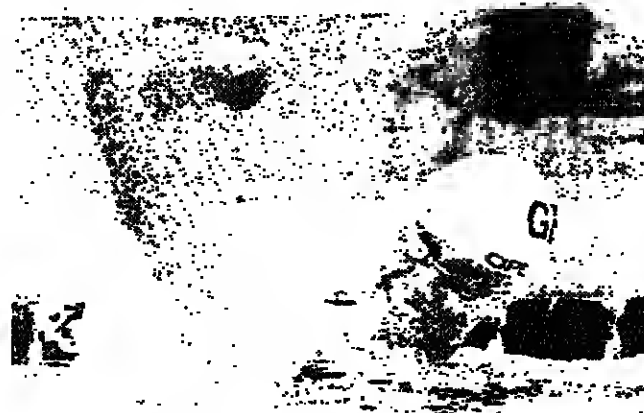
He said there was a danger of clean athletes following the same course as the cheats simply to keep up with them.

"It's a huge concern," Pursley said. "I think the majority of athletes won't be drawn into that. They would rather accept losing or getting out of the sport rather than cheat to win."

"But I am not naive to think that there aren't a few of those who would possibly resort to that," Pursley said. "At the same time we have seen that clean athletes can win whether it's a level playing field or not."

German star Franz Van Almsick (200 freestyle), American swimmer Tom Dolan (400 individual medley), Samantha Riley (100 breaststroke) Kieren Perkins (400 freestyle) and Jani Sievinen (200 medley) were the non-Chinese to break world records.

Of the Chinese, Le Jingyi



Franziska van Almsick

set marks in the 50 to 100 freestyle. He Chong broke the 100 backstroke record and the relay teams won the 400 freestyle and medley in world record times. Le Jingyi went home with five gold medals.

The best performance by a Chinese man came from Wang Yiwu, who was sixth in a 200 breaststroke consolation final.

Van Almsick's performance was even more remarkable because she didn't qualify for the final.

The German was ninth fastest and only made the final when eighth quickest Dagmar Hase, her countrywoman, mysteriously decided to pull out.

The sad thing for Hase, the Olympic 400 metre champion, was that she never swam an individual final. Ironically she was ninth fastest in both 400 and 800 heats and didn't qualify.

Another standout performance came from Russia's Alexander Popov, who became the first swimmer to win both the 50 and 100 freestyle titles at one world championship. Popov, world record holder for 100 metres, also has both Olympic titles and says he is unbeatable right now.

Hungary's Norbert Rosza won both the 100 and 200 breaststroke titles and Spain's Martin Lopez-Zubero, silver medalist in the 200 backstroke behind Russia's Vladimir Selkov, upset world record-holder and defending titlist Jeff Rouse of the United States in the 100

backstroke. Canada's Greg Stoppel won the men's 25 kilometre long course race in sea water at Terracina and Australia's Melissa Cunningham took gold in the women's race.

Chinese divers expectedly won four of the six events but the first went to Zimbabwe's Evan Stewart, the first medalist from his country.

The occasion was marred for Stewart by the fact that organisers did not play the right Zimbabwe national anthem and that his post-event news conference was halted when heavy rain started pouring through the ceiling.

After that it was a steady stream of Chinese victories. Defending and Olympic champion Fu Mingxia won the women's 10-metre highboard, Chen Lixia the 1-metre springboard and Tan Shuping the 3-metre springboard.

Yu Zhuocheng to win, collecting gold in the 3-metre event and Russia's Dmitry Sautin upset Shu Shuei in the highboard competition.

Italy crushed Spain 10-5 in the men's water polo final in a repeat showdown of the 1992 Olympic finalists and Hungary downed defending titlist the Netherlands 7-5 in the women's final.

In synchronised swimming, American competitor Becky Dyroen-Lancor became the third swimmer to win three golds at one world championship, triumphing in the solo, duet and team events.

Maldini, Savicevic set to return for AC Milan

ROME (R) — Italy left back Paolo Maldini and Montenegrin Schemer Dejan Savicevic are both set to return for holders AC Milan in their opening European Cup champions' League match away to Ajax Amsterdam Wednesday.

Maldini has been suffering from an inflamed achilles tendon and has not played competitively since Italy's defeat by Brazil in the World Cup final in Pasadena in July.

Savicevic missed Milan's 1-1 away draw to Cagliari in the Italian League Sunday because of a right leg muscle strain but should now be fit enough to face the Dutch champions in the Group D match in Amsterdam.

The return of both eases an injury and suspension crisis which has ruled out a long list of key Milan players.

Maldini will play in his usual left back berth in a defence led by veteran Franco Baresi and including Filippo Galli and Stefano Nava.

Thousands pay last respects to Wright

WOLVERHAMPTON, England (AP) — Thousands of admirers lined the streets of Wolverhampton Monday to pay their final respects to former England soccer Captain Billy Wright.

Fans braved the pouring rain both at the Molineux Grounds Stadium, where Wright's hearse was driven in the early afternoon, and at the nearby St. Peter's Church where more than 700 mourners attended a funeral service.

Wright, the first British player ever to play 100 times for his country, died Sept. 3 at the age of 70 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

"He was an absolutely wonderful player, one who would have been worth millions of pounds by today's standards," read former England great Bobby Charlton in a tribute. "But he was also a fantastic person who will be missed but not forgotten."

Murdoch swings NHL TV deal

NEW YORK (APF) — Australian-born Rupert Murdoch, who shocked U.S. network television with a \$1.5 billion deal for American football, made a \$155 million deal for five years of National Hockey League games.

Once again U.S. rival CBS was the loser to Murdoch's Fox network, bidding five million dollars under the Fox network offer.

The deal will allow up to 20 NHL telecasts per season, with 11 planned in the coming campaign. While seen on U.S. cable networks, NHL games have not been shown on networks on a regular basis in several years.

Fox's coverage will start with next January's NHL All-Star Game and include up to three games from the league championship series.

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Agassi breathes life back into tennis

NEW YORK (AP) — He was on his knees, his eyes aglow, mumbling a word or two to himself on the stadium court.

"I can't believe it," Andre Agassi said. "The whole thing."

Maybe this was the real Agassi on Sunday, a champion at the U.S. Open, producing a 6-1, 7-6 (7-5) victory over Michael Stich that had everything to do with substance and precious little with marketing campaigns.

Agassi went into this tournament unseeded and beat five seeded players on his way to the title. Work like that is not done with smoke and mirrors.

Stich does not know Agassi well, but he has seen the glitz and the neon that accompany him wherever he goes. He has seen Barbra Streisand on his arm at one open, Brooke Shields at another.

He has heard the screeches for Agassi at the National Tennis Centre and he has heard the court-side proclamation by U.S. Tennis Association President "Bumpy" Frazer hailing Agassi as the most famous tennis player in the world.

Stich does not take kindly to foolishness. And this was not a good afternoon for him, his groundstrokes caught in the wind, his skills diminished by Agassi, his patience tested by the umpire.

But even Stich was struck by the poignance of Agassi alone on the stadium court while the cheers washed over him like the surf.

"If you were standing out there next to him, he was just like a little kid," Stich said. "He didn't know what to say. He was just so happy and I think he is a nice guy."

"He wasn't able to cope with all the things people



Andre Agassi

brought up to him. And everybody was just rying to make his image — companies, television people, ATP, players. And I think the image he has is not the person he is. To get rid of that is very difficult for a young man, and he seems able to do that now a little better."

Some players simply have to deliver the right shots to

win a tournament. For Agassi it is never that simple. This open became a kind of psychodrama for him, an examination of his strength and will and maturity.

"I think more than anything this is a reflection of my commitment," he said. "If I had gone down to one of these other guys during the week, I would still have been sitting here saying the same

thing. I've got to keep on my dreams, and my dreams are to win a tournament like this. That is where it is at — winning the Grand Slams."

His ATP ranking Monday moved from no. 20 to no. 9. He said it was not unreasonable to think he could become no. 1. If he did it for two weeks, why not longer?

More immediately, he leaves the open and begins an exhibition tour, starting Tuesday night at Albany, N.Y., against John McEnroe. Agassi said American tennis needs a lift and the tour is important. So much so he will skip this month's Davis Cup series against Sweden.

Agassi, in many ways, rescued the open, a tournament that played to record attendance and produced a riveting women's final, with Arantza Sanchez Vicario beating Stefani Graf in three sets.

But it also was a tournament that early on had all the makings of going bust. The men's seeds were losing as if a conspiracy were afoot. At one point, deep into the second week, the prospect loomed of a final between Bernd Karbacher and Jonas Bjorkman.

As tennis struggles to hold its audience, Agassi becomes a bigger player at the table. But he doesn't want to play hero. He just wants to play better tennis. The rest will have to take care of itself.

Ivanisevic overcomes Cane at Romanian Open

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic Monday struggled to beat Italy's Paolo Cane in the first round of the \$550,000 Romanian Open tennis tournament.

One day before his 23rd birthday, the top seed dispatched Cane 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 at Bucharest's Progresul clay tennis arena.

"I'm coming here after I didn't win any tournament (in the United States)," he said. "That's why I need a little time to get my confidence in my game back."

Ivanisevic, ranked third by ATP, won last year's Romanian Open, after he beat Russia's Andrei Cherkasov. But this year he has to fight harder to get the \$71,000 top



Michael Stich

Stich named to German team

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — One day after losing the U.S. Open final to Andre Agassi, Michael Stich was named Monday to the German Davis Cup team for the semifinal clash against Russia Sept. 23-25.

Stich, who regained the No. 2 ranking in the world by reaching the final, led the German team to the Davis Cup title over Australia last year.

Three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, who quit the team last year, is missing again for the tie against Russia in Hamburg. The German Tennis Federation confirmed Monday that it was negotiating with

Becker's manager for his return to the team. It said the talks were still going on.

The federation said media reports that Becker was close to signing a multi-million contract that would return him to the Davis Cup team were premature.

Federation chiefs have not ruled out Becker returning to play the final if Germany advances, opening a dispute with captain Niki Pilic, Stich and other players who say Becker should not play the final if he misses earlier rounds.

In addition to Stich, Pilic also picked Karsten Braasch, Marc-Kevin Goellner and Bernd Karbacher to face the Russians.

British, Spanish team wins at Forte Grand

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British-Spanish doubles teams of Richard Lewis and Gustavo de Aristegui drove their victory home in the third set by defeating Alister Philip and Mazhar Al Jazeirah on the third day of the Forte Grand/TNT tennis tournament.

The ladies No. 2 seed Rana Kavar fought hard to overcome Mrs. Otsuka in another ladies cliffhanger.

An easy victory was recorded for the no. 1 men's doubles pair Tae-in Lee and Kim Neung Woo who defeated German hopefuls Stephen Hafner and Hans Crochtmann.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH ©1993 Tribune Media Services Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K109 ♠A972 ♣Q85 ♣K94
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?
A.—Normally, you would show a major suit in response to partner's minor-suit opening. Here, however, the queen in partner's suit should be upgraded and the good intermediate make this hand worth more than the 12 points it counts. Since the hand lacks a ruffing value, bid two no trump.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠98542 ♠7 ♠KA ♠AJ762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—This hand has all the hallmarks of a classic misfit. Three clubs would be a game force and two no trump would be invitational, and you are not strong enough for either action. You can't rebid two spades with such a shabby five-card suit, so the only sensible action, however

ugly it may be, is to pass.
Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J1085 ♠AK987 ♣A83 ♣6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Once partner has issued an invitation, you should be delighted to accept. With four-card support, an unbalanced hand and all prime cards on the side, you want to play in the major suit, so bid four spades — three spades might get passed.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠94 ♠J9722 ♠A1085 ♠K7
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—A new suit by responder creates a one-round force, so rule out two diamonds — you are about a king short for that action. That leaves just one choice — one no

trump. Without another bid from partner, this hand is going nowhere.
Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K10875 ♠Void ♣K984 ♣Q863
Partner's three-heart preemptive opening bid gets passed to you. What action do you take?
A.—Partner has shown a seven-card heart suit and little else, so there's no reason to suppose there's a better spot. Any attempt to improve the contract is almost certain to result in a disaster. Pass.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K10875 ♠Void ♣K984 ♣Q863
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
3 ♣ Dbl
What action do you take?
A.—Pass, for the reasons set out above. Hope that West takes out the double, because you have reasonable defensive prospects or if the double is left in, your bits and pieces may limit the damage.

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2. Yarmouk University in Irbid
3. Mu'tah University in Mu'tah

hereby invite local and international suppliers of educational equipment in subject being taught in the faculty of education of each one of these three Universities to apply for bidding documents and to submit tenders (bids) for the equipment and furniture to be provided to the various laboratories, workshops and classrooms of the Faculties of Education about to be completed in the campus of each one of the respective Universities.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the Bidding Documents for each of the three Universities: (1) at the University of Jordan in Amman, (2) at the liaison office of Yarmouk University located at the Higher Council for Science and Technology building inside the campus of the Royal Scientific Society, (3) at the liaison office of Mu'tah University located at Samir Rifai St.-Jabal Amman between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday to Wednesday from September 14, 1994 to Oct. 5, 1994.

4. A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the above referred offices on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be by a Bank draft or certified bank check in currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of the respective University. Price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent of the Jordan Dinar as follows:

- For Delivery to personal callers JD 15,000 per Lot.
- For Delivery by local Mail to Local Bidders JD 25,000 per lot.
- For Delivery to Overseas Bidders by Courier Service JD 25,000 per Lot plus JD 50 for all Lots.

Bids will be priced and submitted separately for each individual Lot to each respective University. Contracts will be awarded for a Lot (by/Lot) basis to the lowest evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contracts to be signed. Bidders could be awarded more than one Contract of each.

Closing date for the bid submission will be noon of Wednesday, Nov. 2, 1994. Bids shall have a validity of 90 days and will be accompanied issued by The University of Jordan, Yarmouk University and Mu'tah University by a bid security to the value of about 3% of the Bid Price and of duration of 120 days.

Baseball history hints at post-strike future

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A century-old idea detailed in a new Major League Baseball documentary has given striking players a plan to prepare for owners terminating the 1994 season without a World Series.

Owners are set to cancel the annual championship in a dispute with players over salary limits. Baseball's eighth stoppage since 1974 has lasted 32 days, leaving only memories such as those in the 18-hour film history "Baseball."

Players have discussed forming their own league, a solution first tried in 1890. Rivals owners forced the fledgling 19th century teams out of business. But with more than 200 player contracts expiring this year and television financing likely, the time might be right for player-owned teams.

"We're going into uncharted waters. Who knows what will happen? Players might make their own league," Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Orel Hershiser said. "There might be bankers just to back 100 per cent player ownership. Then there would be no argument about cutting up the pieces of the pie."

Those who fail to learn from the past are doomed to repeat it, warns Dodgers' outfielder Brett Butler.

"If they close the doors, you and I in our lifetime will not see a change like we will see in baseball," he said. "Players would be more than willing to start their own league rather than go with a salary cap."

"Baseball" director Ken Burns, who created a landmark film on the U.S. Civil War in 1990, finds his tribute to the game now more of a eulogy. The film debuts Sunday on U.S. television and will be shown on nine consecutive nights.

Burns spent four years on the project, causing a 12-year marriage to his college sweetheart to fall apart. But the life-long baseball fan indulged his passion, speaking with childhood idols and be-

coming the ultimate fan spokesman.

"I've told representatives of both sides that they are custodians of something a lot more important than the bottom line," Burns said. "My worry is the strike will extend into 1995 and have kind of a devastating effect."

"Delving into the history of the game, we might find some answers for the present," Burns said. "Many of the questions being played out today were played out back in the early part of the 20th century. There's a sense that in a sport constantly soul-searching, as baseball seems to be, you can understand the present by looking at the past."

The documentary uses 4,000 photographs and 70 interviews to examine baseball's evolution from cricket through the formation of the first professional club 125 years ago. Top players went to the highest bidder before owners took control of the game by forming the National League in 1876.

The film also details the 1919 Chicago White Sox, who took money from gamblers to throw the World Series, and the plight of black players. Blacks were denied a place in Major League Baseball until Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

"The story of baseball is the story of our country," Burns said. "It's about race and class. It's about labour and management, the role of women, the growth and decay of cities. It's about the rise of popular culture and the nature of mythology."

Burns, who next plans to examine the life of U.S. Constitution founder Thomas Jefferson, developed a love of baseball while a child. His mother fought breast cancer for eight years before dying when he was 11 years old.

"While all that horror was happening, baseball became my sole refuge," Burns said. "It was the only thing that gave me peace and pleasure. I didn't really have a childhood except for baseball."

Lotus gets stay from bankruptcy

LONDON (AP) — The Lotus Formula One team was granted a temporary stay from bankruptcy Monday when a high court put the British-based team under the control of court-appointed administrators.

The action will allow Lotus to continue participating in Grand Prix races despite debts totalling £10 million (\$15 million).

Lotus won 13 Formula One drivers' and constructors' world titles from 1963-73, but has struggled in recent seasons. The team has yet to score a point in 12 races this year.

"It is very sad that such an illustrious team has to seek the protection of the court," said Neil Cooper, one of the appointed administrators. "This reflects their indifferent performance in the last year and a gap in sponsorship."

"As administrators we will establish as soon as possible the possibility of reorganising the company's indebtedness," Cooper said. "In the meantime, with the continued support of the team's sponsors, Lotus will be continuing to race."

The court heard that, in Sunday's Italian Grand Prix, Lotus driver Johnny Herbert was robbed of the chance of putting a newly-developed

Honda engine through its paces because of an incident on the first bend in which he was innocently involved.

The race was restarted with Herbert in a car powered by an older engine and he retired after 13 laps.

The judge ruled that the new engine should have a chance to prove itself in the Portuguese Grand Prix Sept. 25 and the European Grand Prix Oct. 16. He ordered the administrators to return to court Oct. 24 with a report on the company's progress.

The move increases the likelihood of Lotus being sold. The Evening Standard newspaper reported Monday that Managing Director Peter Collins will turn to old friend Nigel Mansell for help.

Mansell, former Formula One and Indy-car champion, started his career with Lotus in 1980. He is returning to Formula One for three races with the Williams team at the end of this season, but his prospects for next year are uncertain.

The Lotus racing team is not connected with the car manufacturers of the same name.

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Japan threatens to pull support for OCA chief

TOKYO (R) — Japan warned Tuesday it would not support the reelection of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) chief after an embarrassing row that nearly led to a Chinese boycott of next month's Asian Games.

The OCA effectively cancelled an invitation extended to Taiwan's President Lee Teng-Hui Monday after the diplomatic fracas erupted.

But there were indications Tokyo planned to allow at least three Taiwanese officials including Deputy Prime Minister Hsu Li-Teh and Education Minister Kuo Wei-Fan to attend the games' opening ceremonies.

The Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper said a senior official from the Hiroshima Asian Games Organising Committee (HAGOC) went to Taipei Monday with 517 identity cards for Taiwanese athletes, journalists and officials including Hsu and Kuo. Hironoshin Furuhashi,

HAGOC chairman, made clear on returning from the World Swimming Championships in Rome that hosts Japan were furious about the OCA's handling of a controversial invitation to Taiwan's Lee.

"Even key members of the international sports world told (me): 'What has (OCA) President Sheikh Ahmad done?'" Furuhashi was quoted as saying at Tokyo's Narita Airport by Kyodo news agency.

"For the Asian sports world and its future, we will be at a loss if we leave the situation like this," Furuhashi said.

Kyodo said Furuhashi hinted that the Japan Olympic Committee, which he also heads, would not support any reelection bid by Sheikh Ahmad at an OCA general meeting to be held during the Hiroshima Games. Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahd Al

Sabah of Kuwait was elected to the OCA post at an extraordinary meeting in 1991. The OCA chief usually serves for a four-year term.

Sheikh Ahmad's father Sheikh Fahd, who was killed during Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, had held the post since the OCA was established in 1982.

In an apparent effort to avert a Chinese boycott, the Kuwait-based OCA, the games' sponsor, on Monday announced no politicians would be invited to the event other than those from host country Japan.

The brief OCA statement made no mention of any individual but the move in effect cancels an invitation that the OCA had extended to Lee.

HAGOC's Furuhashi was quoted as saying by Kyodo: "Now the games will become an event with all expected countries coming together." A record 7,300 athletes

and officials from 42 nations are due to take part in the event competing in 337 events in 34 sports. The games are held every four years and open in Hiroshima Oct. 2.

China, Asian games champions since 1986, is sending the largest contingent, with 779 athletes and officials. Taiwan's delegation totals 397.

Kyodo said Furuhashi had secured support from International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch at talks in Paris Sept. 3 for a withdrawal of the invitation to Lee.

Meanwhile, in Taipei, Taiwan accused China Tuesday of mixing politics with sport.

Lee has received no official notice from the OCA of a change to his invitation and still plans to attend the games, press secretary to the President Frederick Chang

told reporters. "For the Chinese communists to talk this way, they are very clearly allowing politics to interfere with sports," Chang said.

He said China's mixing of sport with politics could affect other aspects of relations between Beijing and Taipei.

Foreign Minister Frederick Chien said China's efforts to exert international pressure to prevent Lee going to the games would have a negative impact on slowly thawing ties, the China Times Express newspaper said.

Lee had not changed his plans to attend the opening ceremony, Chang said. "Up until now the president of the Olympic Council of Asia's invitation to President Lee has in no way changed," he said.

"President Lee's plans to attend the opening ceremonies of the Asian Games

in Hiroshima have not changed either," Chang said.

China, the Asian Games champions since 1986, has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since the civil war on the mainland ended in 1949 and the defeated nationalists retreated to the island.

Lee said Monday the invitation had nothing to do with politics. "We can see that the situation our country is facing is fairly difficult," he said.

"The invitation is to thank me for promoting sports and my firm support for Olympic ideas in the past. It is very simple and is completely based on sports and has nothing to do with politics. Nobody has the right to politicise the matter."

The Taipei Olympic Committee said last week it would not boycott the games even if Lee's invitation were withdrawn.

Le Tissier's double downs Spurs

LONDON (AP) — Matthew Le Tissier scored his second goal of the game with one minute to play Monday to give Southampton a 2-1 victory over Tottenham in the English Premier League.

Le Tissier's goals came after Tottenham defender Sol Campbell was sent off for a controversial foul of Neil Heaney in the 75th minute. The foul appeared to occur outside the penalty area, but referee Alan Wilkie showed the red card and Le Tissier converted the spot kick.

Southampton's comeback against 10 men, producing its first win of the season, overshadowed German striker Juergen Klinsmann's sixth goal of the season for Spurs in the sixth minute.

The loss kept Tottenham in ninth place in the 22-team league with nine points, although the team will lose six points at the end of the season as punishment for financial irregularities. Southampton improved to 15th.

Before 22,387 at White Hart Lane, Tottenham took

the lead after Klinsmann shrugged off a defender only to have Saints' goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar save the shot with his legs. The ball came straight out to Darren Anderton, whose shot was deflected perfectly for Klinsmann to drive home from five yards (metres).

Both teams had ample chances, including Klinsmann's miss just wide midway through the second half, until the disputed penalty.

After Le Tissier's pass sent Heaney racing clear, Campbell looked to have tackled the Saints' striker cleanly on the edge of the penalty area. Tottenham substitute Mickey Hazard was booked for protesting the awarded spot kick as Le Tissier tied it.

Spurs then flung themselves forward in a bid to regain their lead, leaving the door wide open at the back for Le Tissier's winner.

It happened when midfielder Paul Allen crossed low from the right and defender Stuart Nethercott missed an easy clearance, leaving Le Tissier with the easiest of shots past helpless goalkeeper Ian Walker.



Tottenham striker Jurgen Klinsmann kicks past Southampton defender Francis Benali (right) to open the score

during their FA Premiership game at White Lane Monday (AFP photo)

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	CARLITO'S WAY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Thursday, Friday & Sunday for children The Care Bears at 11:00 a.m.		the best of comedies: Strawberry War (Arabic) Starring: Yusra, Mahmoud Hamida and Sahar Rami Shows at: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' THE PELICAN BRIEF Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Bruce Willis — in Striking Distance Shows: 3:30, 5:30 Presents the play: MA HULA AL-SAHAB VA ELEWA (It is the truth Elewa) Acting by: Rabe Shilab, Amr Khalil, Neriman Abdel Karim, Yousef Youssef and Shaker Jaber. Curtains open at 8:30 p.m.		Presents the political comedy: Legal Evening Entertainment Starring: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer and Mahmoud Abu Gharib. For reservation call tel.: 618274 - 618275		Today & Everyday Abu Amr in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday is the theatre's holiday

Yemen poised to grant multibillion gas deal

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE YEMENI government is poised to grant a multi-billion dollar concession to an international company to produce natural gas, energy industry sources say.

Yemen is proven to hold between nine and 13 trillion cubic feet of gas in the Marib region of the country in a concession area where the Yemeni Hunt Oil Company is already producing up to 185,000 barrels of oil per day.

The Yemen Hunt Oil Company, which comprises the U.S. Hunt Oil Company and Exxon and Korea's Yokung, is best placed to secure the contract. But, the sources added, the agreement has yet to be drafted in the final form pending "finishing touches."

Figures of the gas concession negotiations are still a best-kept secret, but informed sources in Sanaa, the Yemeni capital, say the contract would mean an annual \$2 to \$3 billion in revenues to the Yemeni government.

Ray Hunt of Hunt Oil was in Sanaa last week for talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, but an expected announcement of the gas deal failed to materialise.

Planning Minister Abdul Karim Iryani would only say that "there could be significant gas deposits" in an area called Jannah, southeast of Marib and that

the gas export project "is still under discussion between the government and prospective investors, including Hunt/Exxon, who were the ones that discovered" the deposit.

Dr. Iryani put the estimated reserves at eight to nine trillion cubic feet, but other industry sources said the reserves were over 13 trillion cubic feet.

"Some gas experts indicate that the country could prove to be the largest gas producer in the region after Qatar if proper exploration and output methods are adopted," said a senior official of a Western oil company operating in Sanaa.

India is tipped to be the potential buyer of Yemeni gas under a bid submitted by the Enron oil company, with whom the Sanaa government has already signed a preliminary agreement which calls for final accords to be negotiated and signed before the end of the year.

But the government is known to favour Yemen Hunt, if only because the gas was discovered in the oil concession area given to Yemen Hunt under a production-sharing agreement signed in 1984. Production started in September 1987.

While that agreement does not cover natural gas, the very fact that Yemen Hunt is operating in the area is a factor in its favour. In addition, Yemen Hunt has a pipeline running from Marib to Hodeidah port, offering a convenient

medium to transport natural gas.

"However, the government is pressing Yemen Hunt to raise its bid for gas concession and match it with that of Enron," said the oil company official in Sanaa. The Enron offer is believed to involve up to \$5 billion investment.

Yemen Hunt is the biggest oil producer in Yemen, accounting for more than half the country's total output.

George Slaughter, general manager of Yemen Hunt, would not comment on specific details of the present oil concession accord. He would only say that his company's concession agreements with the government "are not well defined" and therefore he was unable to project long-term prospects for his company in Yemen.

According to Dr. Iryani, proven reserves of oil in Yemen range between 600 million and 700 million barrels, but there are strong indications that much larger deposits exist in the country.

In addition to Yemen Hunt's 185,000 barrels per day (b/d) output, Canoco of Canada produces 150,000 barrels in the Masila region. Nimir Petroleum, a Saudi-based company, used to produce up to 10,000 b/d, but now produces less than 4,000 b/d.

However, Yemen has not been able to reflect oil revenues on its socio-economic development. Under the production-

sharing agreements, the government gets less than 50 percent of the output, of which nearly 80,000 b/d are used for local consumption at below-cost prices, leaving little for exports that generate revenue to the treasury. Whatever revenues do come in are used up for food subsidies for the country's 14 million people estimated at around \$400 million.

The civil war that ended in July did not result in serious damages to the oil fields that are already producing. "Production was stopped for a few days during the war," said Mr. Slaughter.

Nearly 30 oil companies maintain a strong presence in Yemen in hopes that sooner or later they would discover crude oil or gas in their concession areas. These include Arco, British Petroleum, Chevron, Occidental, Total and Shell.

More than 3,000 Yemenis and nearly 700 foreigners work in the Yemeni oil industry, with Yemen Hunt accounting for 1,100 Yemenis and 350 foreigners.

A recent blowing up of a plane belonging to the Swiss Cimex company at Aden airport sparked fears among Westerners that foreigners were being targeted by extremist elements in post-crisis Yemen.

But it turned out that the attack on the plane was carried out by a local employee who was claiming back pay, sources said.



BHUTTO IN FEZ: Moroccan King Hassan II Bhutto at his palace in Fez on Monday. Ms. Bhutto was on a one-day visit to Morocco (AFP photo)

Jordan among those voicing reservations in Cairo

From Mariam M. Shahin in Cairo

JORDAN, Syria, Libya, Nicaragua and the Vatican registered their last reservations on the final text of the Cairo plan of action at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) on Tuesday.

The five delegations said they disapproved of the final text granting reproductive rights to individuals rather than couples only. Along with Egypt, Pakistan, Iran and Catholic nations, the group had lobbied extensively to change the wording in Chapter Seven of the 16-chapter document which granted reproductive rights to couples and individuals.

In the original text, reproductive rights were granted to "marriages." This was changed to married couples and individuals, still seen by many as a condoning of premarital sex and parenthood out of wedlock.

The document also refers to "families in their various forms," thus making up for the deletion of couples and other "unions," Western delegates said.

The Iranian delegate to the conference, Mohammad Ali Tashkiri, said Iran could not condone any sanctioning of extra-marital sex in the text of the document. The document propagates the concept of "safe sex," said Mr. Tashkiri. "This violates all religious laws," he added.

But while Muslim and Catholic countries won points on the "sexual high-ground," on many points they lost on the right of immigrants and migrant families to be granted family reunification rights. Western countries, led by the United States, Canada and Switzerland, were adamant about leaving out the word "right." The final text assured only "vital importance" of family reunification.

Jordan and most of the Muslim countries who are members in the Group of 77, lobbied extensively all week to have a series of alterations and additions included in chapters of the Cairo plan of action, which

referred explicitly to women's rights.

The application of the programme should be, "consistent with and have full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds," was one of several additions that were included into the Cairo document as a result of extensive lobbying from Muslim countries.

Jordan also helped in removing an entire chapter on sexual rights in the document because it was felt it would promote promiscuity.

The chapter referred to "alternative to early marriage" for young women. Muslim countries also imposed on the conference a change in reference to inheritance rights of women. A call to "equal" treatment in inheritance rights was changed with the help of the Jordanian delegates to the term "equitable."

But the overall agreement with reservations came after much corridor diplomacy and deliberations between several blocs that had formed at the U.N. conference. The Group of 77 was united on most issues but its Muslim members, especially Iran and Arab states, took separate positions on sexual rights.

The text of the document guaranteed reproductive rights which it said embraced human rights which would allow "couples and individuals" to freely choose the number, spacing and timing of their children.

If the Cairo plan of action, which is estimated to cost \$17 billion annually to implement by the year 2000, the growth of world population would be bridled. The U.N. estimates that by the year 2015 the world population would have grown to 7.27 billion people up from the current 5.67 billion. If the implementation fails, the number is estimated to be 7.92 billion.

Scientists testifying at the conference said the current consumption rates in the

Western hemisphere and uncontrolled population growth in the developing world along with unmeasured exploitation of the environment could create a major environmental catastrophe worldwide and change life as we know by the next century.

Women delegates to the nine-day conference, attended by some 12,000 representatives from governments and non-governmental agencies said they had won a partial victory.

"They used to laugh at us when we talked about gender equality and equity," said Susan Davis who coordinated the non-governmental organisation (NGO) caucus. "We've taken a very conservative, male-dominated demographically controlled field and we've really helped shift their thinking and understanding of our issues and our lives," she added. One French male delegate to the governmental caucus backed Ms. Davis and he told reporters: "Someone described this conference as being about the 'education of women and the re-education of men'... and I think they are right."

But not all participants were so positive about the dialogue between NGOs and governments. A group of mostly Asian women protested in front of the governmental caucus Monday protesting the conference's outcome and focus. "There cannot be reproductive health for women who don't have food or medicine," said Kaplana Mehta, an Indian member of the women's caucus, as she led two dozen demonstrators.

Many delegates from the Third World complained that finance and aid will guide much of the success of the plan of action which they believe is partially imposed.

"The West can pressure our governments to apply the plan of action but the West has to help pay it. If those two steps aren't taken then we were here to talk and take no real action," said one delegate from the Third World.

COLUMN

Joke blows up in Frenchman's face

HANOI (AFP) — A joke employed by a French businessman to boost morale among his staff has backfired after they complained and authorities demanded his expulsion from Vietnam for humiliating workers. Georges Wache, manager of a furniture company called Saigon Mobilier Internationale (SMI), could be banned from returning to Vietnam from holiday in France after forcing workers into what the local press have described as "shameful acts," reports said. Mr. Wache allegedly made three workers put their heads between his thighs to search for cinema tickets that he was giving out as rewards for good work. The jokes did not go down well as one of the three men resigned and complained to city authorities about the treatment. Police and unions in the city are now demanding he be banned from returning to Vietnam. On another occasion he allegedly made a worker at the Ho Chi Minh City factory who had assembled a piece of furniture upside-down stand on his head as a punishment. Newspapers in Saigon, which have been following the story with a relish reserved for cases involving foreigners, have accused Wache of humiliating his staff and have demanded action against him. Wache insists it was all just innocent fun.

Lions maul bible-clutching intruder at zoo

LONDON (AFP) — A man was mauled and critically injured by three lions at the London Zoo after he scaled a 20-foot (seven metre) fence and climbed into their den clutching a Bible, zoo officials said. The man, unidentified and in his early 20s, was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital where he was listed in stable but critical condition after emergency surgery for chest injuries. "The lions were holding the unfortunate man," said senior zoo curator Simon Tonge. "One had him by the neck and the two younger ones were biting his legs." "He was conscious, he wasn't screaming, I suppose you would say he was writing on the ground, obviously in some pain," said Mr. Tonge. "There was some blood." "We greatly regret the incident today and the injuries suffered by this man," said zoo Director J. Cripps. "Security is as tight as is reasonably possible. However, if an individual is sufficiently determined, he or she may succeed in breaching our enclosures," he said. "We take every step possible to ensure that animal enclosures protect the public from what we must remember are wild animals."

Hug your children, it helps them grow specialist

LONDON (R) — Hug your children if you want them to grow tall, a top British child specialist advised Tuesday. Professor Charles Brook said children who do not feel loved produce less growth hormone. "Lack of nurturing seems to affect children's ability to produce the right hormones to grow properly," he told fellow scientists at a conference.

Hong Kong to lose queen's birthday

BEIJING (AFP) — Diehard Hong Kong royalists wanting to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's birthday will have to do so at work after 1997, following China's decision Tuesday to abolish "colonialist" public holidays when it takes over the British colony. The decision was made by the Cultural Affairs Panel of the Hong Kong Preliminary Working Committee — set up to oversee the 1997 hand-over of sovereignty — which also ruled out the continued use of emblems and names of public organs "with a colonialist tinge." While Hong Kong residents will continue to enjoy the existing 17 days of public holidays per year, those holidays "smacking of colonialism, such as the birthday of the British queen, must be abolished," the panel said in a statement carried by the official Xinhua News Agency.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Protests force Abbas to postpone visit home

SAFED (AFP) — Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official who signed the autonomy accord exactly a year ago, cancelled a planned visit to his ancestral home in the town of Safed on Tuesday amid Jewish protests. Israel radio said, Safed town councilors declared Mr. Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, a "terrorist..." and persons not grata. "Leading hundreds in demonstrations against the visit. 'We don't want you, go back,'" shouted protesters carrying photographs of victims of "terror." Mr. Abbas, who arrived in the self-rule area of Jericho last Friday after almost 50 years in exile, went instead to Haifa, a mixed Israeli and Arab city in northern Israel, where he was to meet the mayor, Avraham Mizna. Israeli police chief Assaf Hefetz advised Mr. Abbas, who signed the declaration of principles in Washington on September 13, 1993, not to go to Safed for the time being, the Israeli news agency ITIM reported. Mr. Abbas was born in Safed, Galilee, in 1933, and left ahead of the creation of Israel in 1948. His family home is today a branch of Israel's right-wing opposition party Likud.

Rebels returning to settle in south Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Thousands of former rebels have returned to settle in southern Sudan with their families in response to a call for them to lay down their arms, a government newspaper reported Tuesday. Al Guwwat Al Musallah, the mouthpiece of the Sudanese army, said some 8,000 families have returned to the areas of Tong and Gogrial in Bahr al Ghazal state and another 829 to Deleng and Kadugli in Kordofan state. The daily said the returnees, former fighters of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), are being helped with their material needs in government-controlled areas. It cited the governor of Kordofan state, Brigadier Salah Al Ghali, as saying the rebels were being persuaded to return in addition by family members still living in the government areas.

Ankara requests extradition of militant

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey has formally asked France to extradite the leader of Turkey's extreme-left group Dev-Sol. Dursun Karatas, Turkey's foreign minister spokesman Ferhat Ataman said Tuesday. Mr. Karatas, 41, was indicted Monday by France's top anti-terrorism magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere. He was arrested early Friday trying to cross the Italian-French border using a false Dutch passport. The extradition request was submitted Monday under the Council of Europe's Convention on Extradition, of which Turkey and France are both signatories. Mr. Ataman said. The dossier on Mr. Karatas has not yet been sent to France, but "is being drawn up," the Turkish justice ministry said. "We have asked that he (Karatas) not be set free, and that he be extradited to Turkey," Mr. Ataman said.

Britons implicated in Cyprus kidnapping

NICOSIA (AP) — Three British soldiers were being interrogated Tuesday in the kidnapping of a Danish woman, who was grabbed in the night while riding a motorcycle with a boyfriend near a southern beach resort. A police statement identified the woman as Louise Jensen, 23, the Cyprus representative of a Danish tour agency called Frindresor. It said three British soldiers were arrested as "kidnap suspects" and that the woman's escort, Michael Vassiliades, identified them as the attackers. Coast guard, sniffer dogs and Cypriot helicopters teamed up to the search for Miss Jensen, but had not found her more than 12 hours after the incident. Miss Jensen and Mr. Vassiliades, 21, of Nicosia, were on a road just outside the resort of Ayia Napa at 00.45 a.m. (2145 GMT Monday). A yellow mini moped, a beach buggy, overtook their motorcycle, blocked the way and forced them to stop. Two men climbed out of the car and went for Miss Jensen. One of them struck her with "a metal bar or a shovel," the police statement said. A third man chased Vassiliades, but he managed to flee on foot and hid in a bush. The three men drove away with the girl, and he ran to a police station to report the incident.

Qadhafi calls Haiti dangerous precedent

TUNIS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, who fears the west may attack Libya over Lockerbie, said on

Tuesday a U.S. invasion of Haiti would set a dangerous precedent. "If the invasion of Haiti is carried out... it will confirm what we have already said about the United States, its tyranny, its dangerousness for the whole of humanity, and will confirm also that the United States is a state without conscience nor morality," Colonel Qadhafi said in a statement carried by Libya's JANA news agency. "If Britain agrees to take part in the invasion, it will be a proof of what we already said that the so-called Western and Christian civilisations are falling and becoming a lie and treachery," he added. The Libyan leader said he would advise U.S. President Bill Clinton to resign rather than invade Haiti, which Mr. Clinton has threatened to do to overthrow the Caribbean island state's military rulers. Col. Qadhafi also appealed to the Pope "to save what can be saved in the temple of the falling Christianity."

Tunisian Islamist sees hope in Algeria

PARIS (R) — The exiled leader of Tunisia's outlawed Muslim fundamentalist movement was quoted on Tuesday as saying there was a chance of a compromise between Islamists and military rulers in neighbouring Algeria. Rached Ghannouchi, who lives in Britain, told the French daily Information the negotiations between the Algerians authorities and imprisoned leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) were "the first glimmer of hope in the Algerian tunnel," he said. "The balance of power now in Algeria makes it possible to hope for a compromise. The army has not managed to wipe out the revolution. The Algerian state is in the process of disintegrating. At the same time, on the Islamist side, the divisive factors are growing bigger and bigger. Time is not on either camp's side. That explains why the moderates on both sides are trying to negotiate." Mr. Ghannouchi, sentenced to life imprisonment in 1992, is in close contact with exiled Algerian Muslim fundamentalists. He condemned the murders of intellectuals and foreigners by radical guerrillas or other shadowy groups.

Iran seizes nine tonnes of drugs

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran seized over nine tonnes of drugs in three separate operations this week, including a two-hour clash with smugglers leading a 40-camel caravan across the country's east, Iran's official news agency reported Tuesday. Twenty-five camels were killed and 14 were captured in the Sunday bust in which Iranian security forces seized a large amount of ammunition and nearly seven tonnes of drugs, including 1,886 kilograms (857 pounds) of morphine and 4,921 kilograms (2,237 pounds) of opium, according to the report. The caravan was intercepted in the eastern province of Baluchistan from where the smugglers intended to channel the drugs to Europe, according to the local police commander, Brigadier Mahmood Jalapaqi. Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency did not say if any of the smugglers were killed or arrested. Jalapaqi said that an additional 2,125 kilograms of opium was seized by force during other operations in the province, without providing any details.

Five Lebanese detained in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Five Lebanese citizens have been detained for questioning in connection with the deadly bombing of a Jewish community centre, a judge said Tuesday. The five, including a 16-year-old boy, were detained Saturday in Misiones province near Argentina's border with Brazil. Criminal Court Judge Mario-Jachiro Doy told local radio stations. Mr. Jachiro Doy said the five will be questioned by federal judge Juan Jose Galeano, who is leading the investigation. The July 18 bombing in Buenos Aires killed 95 people and injured more than 200. The adults detained were Ali Haudi Hussein, Amad Jomaa, Walid Jamil and Jassam Doyob. The 16-year-old was not identified. None of the detainees have been charged. Mr. Galeano last month ordered the capture of four current and former Iranian officials for questioning in connection with the bombing. He also said three current employees of the Iranian embassy in Buenos Aires should be questioned. However, the supreme court, which handles all cases involving foreign diplomats, ruled that there was not enough proof to force the Iranians to submit to questioning.

Jordan, Israel end talks

(Continued from page 1)

nian side to be followed by a session between Oct. 10 and 20.

Half of this lengthy session will be held at the Jordanian side and the other half at the Israeli side of the Dead Sea, he added.

In reply to a question concerning the formation of a Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian joint committee, Dr. Muasher said that the proposed committee will pursue their meetings to finish their tasks.

Hardliners stage strike

(Continued from page 1)

General Command and Abu Mousa's, Fatah. They are among 10 Syria-based factions opposed to the peace accord and the PLO's leadership.

No violence was reported in the protest sit-ins involving a couple of hundred refugees from the camps of Beddawi and Nahr Al Bared north of Tripoli. Lebanon's second-largest city in the north, and refugees and activists in Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon.

meat had been reached yet. But, he added, the future stage requires from the three sides to reach a formula on joint coordination on issues that are of direct impact on their respective interests.

Dr. Muasher said: "We do not expect rapid progress on the outstanding issues listed in the agenda concerning water and borders, but the concerned committee will pursue their meetings to finish their tasks."

Last year, a protest by pro-Iranians in Beirut marking the accord's signing led to a confrontation with troops, who killed nine protesters.

Refugees who turned out for a one-hour sit-in outside the offices of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) carried placards denouncing the autonomy deal as "humiliating" and the role of the Palestinian self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho as "suspicious."

Peres, Arafat meet

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian budget, Mr. Peres replied: "No. It was agreed clearly donors would contribute for the implementation of Gaza and Jericho (projects)."

The Israeli foreign minister said aid to East Jerusalem would not be stopped, but he would not permit it to be administered by a Palestinian authority. "They don't have jurisdiction," he added.

Donors have promised about \$2.5 billion to help boost the peace process, including more than \$600 million in the first year of self-rule. So far, little of that has arrived.

Norwegian officials, who invited donor countries to Oslo after the collapse of the Paris meeting, said they were hoping to prevent contentious issues such as East Jerusalem from coming up in Tuesday's talks between Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat.